

IN THE MATTER OF	*	BEFORE THE MARYLAND
MARIAN CUBA RUTA	*	STATE BOARD OF
PHYSICAL THERAPIST	*	PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINERS
LICENSE NO.: 18214	*	CASE NO.: PT-14-10

* * * * *

**ORDER OF SUSPENSION OF LICENSE
FOR DELINQUENT CHILD SUPPORT**

BACKGROUND

On or about September 6, 2013, the Maryland Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (the “Board”) received a written request from the Montgomery County Office of the Child Support Enforcement Administration of the Maryland Department of Human Resources (the “Administration”) to suspend the license to practice physical therapy held by Marian Cuba Ruta (the “Respondent”), License No. 18214, for delinquent child support. This action was to be taken by authority of Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law § 10-119.3 (2012 Repl. Vol.), which provides, in pertinent part:

(c)(2) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, upon notification by the Administration under this section, a licensing authority¹ shall:

(i) suspend an individual’s license; or

(ii) deny the license of an individual who is an applicant for a license from the licensing authority.

* * *

(h) *Right to contest identity.* – (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, prior to the suspension or denial of a license under subsection (e) of this section, a licensing authority shall send written notice of the proposed action to the individual whose license

¹ The Maryland Board of Physical Therapy Examiners is a unit within the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Md. Code Ann., Health-Gen. §§ 2-101 & 2-106(a)(19), and is therefore a “licensing authority” within the meaning of Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law § 10-119.3(a)(3)(i) and (ii)(2).

is subject to suspension or denial, including notice of an individual's right to contest the identity of the individual whose license or application is to be suspended or denied.

* * *

(i) *Appeal; hearing.* - (1)(i) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, an individual may appeal a decision of a licensing authority to suspend or deny the individual's license in accordance with Title 10, Subtitle 2 of the State Government Article.

(ii) At a hearing under this paragraph, the issue shall be limited to whether the Administration has mistaken the identity of the individual whose license has been suspended or denied.

* * *

(k) *Reinstatement of license Duty of licensing authority.* - A licensing authority shall immediately reinstate any license suspended, or process an application for any license denied, under this section if:

(1) notified by the Administration that the license should be reinstated; and

(2) the individual otherwise qualifies for the license.

On September 18, 2013, the Board sent an unexecuted copy of this Order of Suspension to the Respondent. Accompanying the unexecuted Order of Suspension was a cover letter notifying the Respondent of her right to contest her identity in writing within thirty days of the date of the letter and notifying the Respondent that if she did not submit a signed, written appeal to the Board on or before October 18, 2013, the Board would execute this Order of Suspension as written. The Respondent did not submit a written contest of identity to the Board by October 18, 2013.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Board issued a license to practice physical therapy to the Respondent on September 28, 1995. Her license is currently active and is scheduled to expire on May 31, 2014.

2. On or about September 6, 2013, the Board received a written request from the Administration, entitled "Request to Suspend or Deny License for Delinquent Child Support" (the "Request"), which requested that the Board suspend the license to practice physical therapy held by the Respondent for delinquent child support under the authority of Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law § 10-119.3. The Request stated that, as of September 1, 2013, the arrearage amount of child support that the Respondent owed was \$11,500.00, in the Administration's case numbered 510129644.

3. As noted above, Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law § 10-119.3(e)(2) & (h)(1) requires that the Board suspend the registration of the Respondent upon notification by the Administration and after sending written notice to the Respondent of the proposed suspension of her license and of her right "to contest the identity of the individual whose license . . . is to be suspended."

4. On September 18, 2013, the Board sent an unexecuted copy of this Order of Suspension to the Respondent's last known address registered with the Board (the same address as that on the Request). Included with the unexecuted Order of Suspension was a letter notifying the Respondent of her right to contest her identity, in writing to the Board, within thirty days of the date of the letter: that is, to contest that she was not the Marian Cuba Ruta, License No. 18214, named by the Administration as the individual whose license should be suspended for delinquent child support. In addition, the letter also gave Respondent written notice that if she did not submit to the Board a signed, written appeal on or before October 18, 2013, the Board would execute this Order of Suspension as written.²

² The letter also notified the Respondent that she could prevent the suspension of her license by contacting the Administration and arranging to pay the arrears in full within 15 days of the date of the letter.

5. The Respondent did not submit a written contest of identity to the Board by October 18, 2013, nor was the Board notified that the Respondent arranged to pay the arrears in full.

6. Having given the Respondent the statutorily required written notice of the Board's intent to suspend her license and of her right to contest identity pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law § 10-119.3(h)(1), and having not received a written response or appeal from the Respondent, the Board is statutorily required to suspend the Respondent's license, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law § 10-119.3(c)(2).

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes that, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law § 10-119.3(e)(2)(i), it is statutorily required to suspend the Respondent's license to practice physical therapy until the Board receives notification from the Administration that the Respondent's license should be reinstated pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law § 10-119.3(k)(1)-(2), provided that the Respondent is otherwise qualified for a license.

ORDER

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, on this 22nd day of October, 2013, by a quorum of the Maryland Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, it is hereby:

ORDERED that the registration to practice physical therapy held by the Respondent, Marian Cuba Ruta, License No. 18214, is **SUSPENDED**; and it is further,

ORDERED that the Respondent's license shall remain suspended until the Board receives notification from the Child Support Enforcement Administration of the Department of Human Resources that the Respondent's license should be reinstated pursuant to Md. Code Ann.,

Fam. Law § 10-119.3(k)(1)-(2), provided that the Respondent is otherwise qualified for licensure; and it is further,

ORDERED that this is a Final Order of the Maryland Board of Physical Therapy Examiners and, as such, is a public document pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Gov't §§10-617(h).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Curry', is written over a horizontal line.

Carlton Curry, Executive Director
for
Dr. John Baker, Chair
Maryland Board of Physical Therapy Examiners

NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS

The Respondent has a right to appeal this Final Order of the Board as provided for judicial review of a final decision in the Maryland Administrative Procedures Act, Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-201 *et seq.*, and Title 7, Chapter 200 of the Maryland Rules.