IN THE MATTER OF \* BEFORE THE MARYLAND

BRANDON C. SABOL, P.T. \* BOARD OF PHYSICAL

RESPONDENT \* THERAPY EXAMINERS

LICENSE NO.: 25151 \* Case No.: PT 21-20

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

## **ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

The Maryland Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (the "Board") hereby SUMMARILY SUSPENDS the license of BRANDON C. SABOL, P.T. (the "Respondent"), License Number 25151, to practice as a physical therapist ("P.T.") in the State of Maryland. The Board takes such action pursuant to its authority under Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-226(c) (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2020 Supp.) concluding that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action.

## INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS<sup>1</sup>

Based on information received by, and made known to the Board, and the investigatory information obtained by, received by and made known to and available to the Board, including the instances described below, the Board has reason to believe the following facts are true:

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was licensed to practice as a physical therapist in the Sate of Maryland under License Number 25151. The Respondent

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The statements regarding the Respondent's conduct are only intended to provide the Respondent with notice of the basis for the Board's action. They are not intended as, and do not necessarily represent, a complete description of the evidence, either documentary or testimonial, to be offered against the Respondent in this matter.

was originally licensed in Maryland on August 13, 2014. His license was scheduled to expire on May 31, 2021; however, by Executive Order the expiration date was extended until June 30, 2021.<sup>2</sup>

- 2. The Respondent also holds an active license to practice physical therapy in West Virginia. The Respondent was originally licensed in West Virginia under License Number PT003425. His license is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2022.
- 3. On or about June 26, 2021, the Board received from the West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy ("West Virginia Board") notification that it had taken an adverse action against the Respondent.
- 4. By Order Suspending Respondent's License and Notice of Hearing dated June 25, 2021, the West Virginia Board summarily suspended the Respondent based on his May 18, 2021 indictment in the United States District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia (Case Number: 3:21CR20-001) (the "Indictment").
- 5. The Indictment charged the Respondent as follows:

Count I- Distribution of Child Pornography- the Respondent knowingly distributed child pornography that involves a visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct involving the use of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256A(8)(A), that had been shipped and transported in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce by any means, including by computer, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2252A(a)(2)(A) and 2252A(b)(1); and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> By Executive Order dated March 12, 2020, the Maryland State Governor ordered that the expiration date of permits, licenses, registrations, and other governmental authorizations be extended until after the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency related to Covid-19 had ended. The March 12, 2020 Executive Order applied to all licenses that would otherwise expire during the state of emergency and would be renewable during the state of emergency under applicable laws and regulations. By Executive Order No. 21-03-09-03 dated March 9, 2021, the Governor extended the expiration date until June 30, 2021.

Count II – Possession of Child Pornography - the Respondent knowingly possessed an image of child pornography, as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256(8), which had been transported in interstate and foreign commerce by computer, and that involved a pre-pubescent minor who had not attained 12 years of age, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2252A(5)(B) and 2252A(b)(2).

6. The United States District Court's *Order Setting Conditions of Release* requires the Respondent, in pertinent part, to participate in mental health counseling and prohibits him from associating with children under the age of 18, except in the company of responsible adult who is fully aware of the Respondent's background, and who has been approved by the U.S. Pretrial Services Officer or supervising officer.

## **CONCLUSION OF LAW**

Based on the foregoing Investigative Findings, the Board concludes that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action in this case, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-226(c)(2).

## **ORDER**

Based on the foregoing Investigative Findings and Conclusion of Law, it is this  $29^{74}$  day of June, 2021, by a majority of the Board, hereby

**ORDERED** that pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-226(c)(2), the Respondent's license to practice as a physical therapist is **SUMMARILY SUSPENDED**; and it is further

**ORDERED** that on presentation of this order, the Respondent **SHALL SURRENDER** to the Board's investigator his original Maryland License Number 25151; and it is further

ORDERED that this ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION is a PUBLIC DOCUMENT pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. §§ 4-101 et seq.

 $\frac{6/29/202/}{\text{Date}}$ 

Karen Gordes, P.T., Ph.D., D.Sc.P.T

Chair

Maryland Board of Physical Therapy

Examiners