

IN THE MATTER OF * BEFORE THE MARYLAND
 KATHERINE B. LANGSTON, LMT * STATE BOARD OF MASSAGE
 Respondent * THERAPY EXAMINERS
 License Number: M05455 * Case Number: 24-07M

* * * * *

CONSENT ORDER OF REPRIMAND/ORDER OF PROBATION

On June 26, 2024, the Maryland State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners (the “Board”) charged the license of **KATHERINE B. LANGSTON, LMT** (Licensed Massage Therapist) (the “Respondent”), License Number **M05455**, under the Maryland Massage Therapy Act (the “Act”), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 6-101 *et seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol & 2023 Supp.). Specifically, the Board based its action on the Respondent’s violation of the following provisions of the Act under Health Occ. §§6-308, 6-501, and 6-502.

§ 6-308

(a) *In general; grounds.* -- Subject to the hearing provision of § 6-309 of this subtitle, the Board may deny a license or registration to an applicant, reprimand a licensee or registration holder, place any licensee or registration holder on probation, or suspend or revoke the license of a licensee or the registration of a registration holder if the applicant, licensee, or registration holder:

....

(8) Does an act that is inconsistent with generally accepted professional standards in the practice of massage therapy;

....

(11) Has violated any provision of this title;

...

- (21) Knowingly does an act that has been determined by the Board to be a violation of the Board's regulations[.]

§6-501.

Except as otherwise provided in this title, an individual may not practice, attempt to, or offer to practice massage therapy, massage, myotherapy, or any synonym or derivation of these terms in the State unless licensed or registered by the Board.

§6-502.

- (a) An individual who is not a licensed massage therapist or registered massage practitioner under this title may not advertise or claim by title, abbreviation, sign, card, or any other representation that the individual practices massage, myotherapy, or any synonym or derivation of these terms.

The violations of the Board regulations include:

Md. Code Regs. 10.65.01.05. Licensure or Registration Required.

An individual shall be licensed by the Board in order to practice massage therapy[.]

.....

Md. Code Regs. 10.65.03.07. Education and Training.

A. A license holder or registration holder shall:

- (3) Maintain a current license or registration to practice massage therapy.

On August 8, 2024, the Respondent attended a case resolution conference (“CRC”) with members of the Board in an effort to resolve the pending charges in lieu of an evidentiary hearing. The Assistant Attorney General – Administrative Prosecutor, also attended the CRC on behalf of the State. At that CRC, the Respondent and the State agreed

to, and the Board hereby accepts, the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board finds that:

I. BACKGROUND

1. The Respondent was originally licensed to practice massage therapy in Maryland on March 23, 2015, under License Number **M05455**. The Respondent's license is currently active and scheduled to expire on October 31, 2024.
2. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent co-owned and worked as a massage therapist at a wellness center (the "Center")¹ located in Anne Arundel County, Maryland.
3. On or about November 2, 2023, the Board received an anonymously submitted Complaint Form (the "Complaint") alleging that the Respondent was practicing massage therapy on an expired license.
4. At the time of the Complaint, the Respondent's license to practice massage therapy had expired on October 31, 2022.
5. The Complaint included records of massage services provided by Respondent between November 7, 2022, and July 31, 2023. Based on the records provided, the Respondent provided approximately 122 massage sessions/services to 58 clients

¹ For confidentiality and privacy purposes, the names of individuals and healthcare facilities involved in this case are not disclosed in this document. The Respondent may obtain the names of all individuals and healthcare facilities referenced in this document by contacting the administrative prosecutor.

during that time period. The Respondent contends that based on her recollection, between November 7, 2022, and July 31, 2023, she provided approximately 160 hours of service to approximately 38 clients in 2023.

6. On receipt of the information, the Board initiated an investigation into the allegation.

II. BOARD INVESTIGATION

7. In furtherance of the investigation, the Board subpoenaed the Center's client records, which included records of multiple client massage appointments conducted by the Respondent.

8. On December 15, 2023, the Board's investigator interviewed the Respondent's former business partner (the "Partner") and co-owner of the Center under oath. During the interview, the partner relayed that she discovered the Respondent's expired license and confronted the Respondent about it in January 2023.

9. On January 13, 2023, the Respondent emailed the Board to inquire about renewing her license. The partner was included in the email. The email read in pertinent part:

"I am a massage therapist of over 15 years with the state of MD. I failed to renew my license this past fall. How can I make this right? I would like to renew my license."

10. On January 17, 2023, the Respondent acknowledged receipt of an email from the Board that instructed her on the renewal process, and stated in reply that she would complete it "within 48 hours."
11. The Respondent did not renew her license until November 13, 2023.

12. On February 20, 2024, during an interview conducted by a Board investigator, the Respondent stated that between November 1, 2022, and November 14, 2023, the Respondent continued to serve clients and “touched people with massage.”
13. In the same interview, the Respondent stated that between November 1, 2022, and November 14, 2023, she engaged in “Reiki” massage, which did at times include “muscular manipulation” and “massage.”

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

In this case, based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes that the Respondent violated Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 6-308

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massage, myotherapy, or any synonym or derivation of these terms in the State unless licensed or registered by the Board.

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B. A license holder or registration holder shall:

- (3) Maintain a current license or registration to practice massage therapy.

ORDER

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is hereby:

ORDERED that the license of the Respondent to practice as a licensed massage therapist, License Number **M05455**, is **REPRIMANDED**; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent's license is hereby placed on **PROBATION** for a minimum of **TWO (2) YEARS** subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. The Respondent's status as a licensed massage therapist will be listed in the Board's computer records and website as being on "Probation".
2. Within **SIX (6) MONTHS** from the effective date of this Order, the

Respondent is required to take and successfully complete one Board-approved course in **RECORD KEEPING** and one Board-approved course in **ETHICS**. The following terms apply:

- a. It is the Respondent's responsibility to locate, enroll in, and obtain the Board's approval of the courses before the courses begin;
 - b. The Board may accept courses taken in person or online;
 - c. The courses must be a minimum of three (3) credit hours.
 - d. The Respondent must provide documentation to the Board that the Respondent has successfully completed the courses;
 - e. The courses may not be used to fulfill the continuing education credits required for license renewal; and
 - f. The Respondent is responsible for the cost of the courses.
3. The Respondent shall submit to random record reviews conducted by Board staff and/or Board-approved reviewers throughout the term of probation.
 4. The Respondent shall pay a monetary penalty in the amount of **TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$2,500)** to the Board within **NINETY (90) DAYS** from the effective date of this Order.
 5. The Respondent shall comply with the Maryland Massage Therapy Act, Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 6-101 – 6-602, and all laws and regulations governing the practice of massage therapy in Maryland, and it is further **ORDERED** that the Respondent shall at all times cooperate with the Board in the monitoring, supervision, and investigation of the Respondent's compliance with the terms

and conditions of this Order. The Respondent's failure to fully cooperate with the Board shall be considered a violation of probation and this Order; and it is further

ORDERED that, if the Respondent allegedly fails to comply with any term or condition imposed by this Consent Order, the Respondent shall be given notice and an opportunity for a hearing. If the Board determines there is a genuine dispute as to a material fact, the Board shall schedule an evidentiary hearing before the Board; and if the Board determines there is no genuine dispute as to a material fact, the Respondent shall be given a show cause hearing before the Board; and it is further

ORDERED that after the appropriate hearing, if the Board determines that the Respondent has failed to comply with any term or condition imposed by this Consent Order, the Board may reprimand the Respondent, place the Respondent on additional probation with appropriate terms and conditions, or suspend with appropriate terms and conditions, or revoke the Respondent's registration or license, as the case may be, to practice massage therapy in the State of Maryland. The Board may, in addition to one or more of the sanctions set forth above, impose an additional civil monetary fine on the Respondent; and it is further

ORDERED that no earlier than **TWO (2) YEARS** after the effective date of this Consent Order, the Board will consider a petition for termination of the Respondent's probationary status, provided that the Respondent has been compliant with the probationary terms of this Consent Order; and it is further

ORDERED that the effective date of the Consent Order is the date the Consent Order is signed by the Executive Director of the Board; and it is further

ORDERED that for purposes of public disclosure and as permitted by Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. § 4-333(b)(6), this document consists of the foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order, and is reportable to any entity to whom the Board is obligated to report; and it is further

ORDERED that this Order is a Final Order and, as such, is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. § 4-333(b)(6) and Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 1-607.

09/26/2024
Date

Sharon Oliver
Sharon J. Oliver, MBA
Executive Director
Maryland State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners

CONSENT

I, Katherine Langston, assert that I am aware of my right to consult with and be represented by counsel in considering this Consent Order and in any proceedings that would otherwise result from the charges currently pending. I have chosen to proceed without counsel and I acknowledge that the decision to proceed without counsel is freely and voluntarily made.

By this Consent, I agree to be bound by this Consent Order and all its terms and conditions and understand that the Board will not entertain any request for amendments or modifications to any condition.

I assert that I am aware of my right to a formal evidentiary hearing, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 6-309 and Md. Code Ann., State Gov't §§ 10-201 *et seq.* I waive this right and have elected to sign this Consent Order instead.

I acknowledge the validity and enforceability of this Consent Order as if entered after the conclusion of a formal evidentiary hearing in which I would have had the right to counsel, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my behalf, and to all other substantive and procedural protections as provided by law. I waive those procedural and substantive protections. I acknowledge the legal authority and the jurisdiction of the Board to initiate these proceedings and to issue and enforce this Consent Order. I voluntarily enter into and agree to comply with the terms and conditions set forth in the Consent Order as a resolution of the charges. I waive any right to contest the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and Order set out in the Consent Order. I waive all rights to appeal this Consent Order.

I sign this Consent Order, without reservation, and fully understand the language and meaning of its terms.

K Langston

Katherine Langston

NOTARIZATION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 26 day of September,
before me, Notary Public of the State and City/County aforesaid, Katherine Langston personally appeared, and made oath in due form of law that signing the foregoing Consent Order was the voluntary act and deed of Katherine Langston.

AS WITNESSETH my hand and notarial seal.

SEAL

Charlene Laison

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 2-2-2025