IN THE MATTER OF * BEFORE THE

*

XIANGJIAO ZHANG * MARYLAND STATE BOARD

*

Registration No. R03276/ * OF MASSAGE THERAPY EXAMINERS

LMT Conversion Applicant *

CONSENT ORDER

Xiangjiao Zhang (the "Respondent") is currently registered to practice as a registered massage practitioner ("RMP") in the State of Maryland, registration number R03276. On or about March 11, 2022, the Maryland State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners (the "Board") received information from the Anne Arundel County Police Department indicating that unlicensed or unregistered individuals were engaging in the practice of massage therapy and, while engaging in the practice of massage therapy, engaging in sexual activities at a facility (the "Facility") in Anne Arundel County. Based on this information, the Board initiated an investigation. The investigation revealed that the Respondent was the co-owner of the Facility along with another unlicensed or unregistered individual. That individual was interviewed under oath during the investigation and stated that the Respondent knew that she was engaging in massage therapy without a license.

On May 22, 2024, the Board charged the Respondent with several violations of the Maryland Massage Therapy Act. Rather than pursue a hearing before the Board on the substance of the Board's allegations, the Respondent entered into negotiations with the State to settle the matter. On July 24, 2024, the Board executed a Consent Order, which sets forth findings of fact and conclusions of law, suspending the Respondent's registration to practice as an RMP for 18 months from July 24, 2024. At the conclusion of 18 months, the Respondent's suspension would be terminated, and her registration would be placed on probation for a minimum of 2 years, subject to certain terms and conditions. The July 24, 2024 Consent Order is attached hereto and fully incorporated herein as

Exhibit A.

On or about October 16, 2024, the Respondent submitted an application under COMAR 10.65.01.06.F to convert her RMP registration to a license to practice massage therapy. Given that this is a conversion and not an application for a new license, as evidenced by the signature on this Order, the Respondent has agreed that any encumbrances on her current registration shall continue without interruption upon her license once converted, including those encumbrances imposed by the July 24, 2024 Consent Order.

Wherefore, it is hereby:

ORDERED that the Respondent's application to convert her registration to practice massage therapy to a license to practice massage therapy is **GRANTED**; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent's license to practice massage therapy in the State of Maryland under license number M06746 be and hereby is SUSPENDED FOR EIGHTEEN (18) MONTHS from July 24, 2024; and it is further

ORDERED that, after eighteen (18) months from <u>July 24, 2024</u>, the Respondent's suspension shall be **TERMINATED** by operation of this Order, and the Respondent's license shall be placed on **PROBATION** for a minimum period of **TWO (2) YEARS** subject to the following terms and conditions:

- 1. Within SIX (6) MONTHS of the termination of the Respondent's suspension, the Respondent shall pay a fine in the amount of TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,000.00) by certified check or money order to the Maryland Board of Massage Therapy Examiners.
- 2. Within SIX (6) MONTHS of the termination of the Respondent's suspension, the Respondent is required to take and successfully complete one (1) 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 Respondent must provide documentation to the Board that the Respondent has successfully completed the courses;
- d. The courses may not be used to fulfill the continuing education credits required for license renewal; and
- e. The Respondent is responsible for the costs of the courses.
- 3. The Respondent shall submit to the Board written quarterly self-reports describing the Respondent's practice, including the Respondent's place of employment with its address.
- 4. The Respondent shall at times cooperate with the Board, any of its agents or employees, and with the Board-assigned investigator in the monitoring, supervision, and investigation of the Respondent's compliance with the terms and conditions of this Order.
- 5. The Respondent shall comply with the Maryland Massage Therapy Act, Md. Code Ann., Health 0cc. §§ 6-101 and 6-602, and all laws and regulations governing the practice of massage therapy in Maryland; and it is further

ORDERED that after the conclusion of the TWO (2) YEAR probationary period imposed by this Order, the Respondent may submit a written petition to the Board requesting termination of probation. After consideration of the petition, the probation may be terminated through an order of the Board. The Board, at its discretion, may grant termination if the Respondent has fully and satisfactorily complied with all the terms and conditions of the Order, and there are no pending investigations or complaints against the Respondent, and the Board deems termination of probation appropriate. If the Respondent fails to make any such

petition, then the probationary period status may continue indefinitely, subject to the conditions set forth in this Order; and it is further

ORDERED that if the Respondent allegedly fails to comply with any of the terms and conditions of this Order, the Respondent shall be given notice and opportunity for a hearing. If, in its sole discretion, the Board determines that there is a genuine dispute as to a material fact, the hearing shall be an evidentiary hearing before the Board. If 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 of probation or this Order, the Board may reprimand the Respondent, place the Respondent on probation with appropriate terms and conditions, or suspend or revoke the Respondent's license to practice massage therapy in Maryland. The Board may, in addition to one or more of the sanctions set forth above, impose a civil monetary fine upon the Respondent; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent is responsible for all costs incurred in fulfilling the terms and conditions of this Order, 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 is reportable to any entity to whom the Board is obligated to report; and it is further

ORDERED that this Order is a PUBLIC DOCUMENT pursuant to Md. Code Ann.,

Gen. Prov. §§ 4-101 et seq. (2019 Repl. Vol. & 2023 Supp.).

11/19/2024 Date

Sharon Oliver, MBA
Executive Director

Maryland State Board of

Massage Therapy Examiners

CONSENT

I, Xiangjiao Zhang, acknowledge that I am not represented by counsel and have

knowingly and voluntarily elected not to consult with counsel prior to entering this Consent

Order. By this Consent and for the purpose of resolving the issues raised by the Board, I

agree and accept to be bound by the foregoing Consent Order and its conditions.

I acknowledge the validity of this Consent Order as if entered into 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 own behalf, and to all other substantive

and procedural protections provided by the law. I agree to forego my opportunity to

challenge these allegations. I acknowledge the legal authority and jurisdiction of the Board

to initiate these proceedings and to issue and enforce this Consent Order. I affirm that I am

waiving my right to appeal any adverse ruling of the Board that might have followed after

any such hearing.

I sign this Consent Order, voluntarily and without reservation, and I fully understand

and comprehend the language, meaning and terms of this Consent Order.

10-24/2024 Date Xiangliao Zhang (

Respondent

6

NOTARY

STATE OF MARYLAND CITY/COUNTY OF Anne Arundel

AS WITNESSETH my hand and notary seal.

Notary Public

My commission expires: 07/24/2027