



Arkansas Department of Health

Arkansas State Board of Physical Therapy

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Governor Sara Huckabee Sanders
Renee Mallory, RN, BSN, Secretary of Health
Nancy Worthen, Director

BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

IN THE MATTER OF HANNAH CHRISTMAS, PTA 3813

CONSENT ORDER

An allegation that Hannah Christmas, hereinafter referred to as Respondent, violated the Arkansas Physical Therapy Act was received by the Arkansas State Board of Physical Therapy, hereinafter referred to as the Board. In lieu of a formal hearing on these issues and in the interest of a prompt and speedy settlement of the above-captioned matter, consistent with the public interest, statutory requirements and the responsibilities of the Board, the undersigned parties enter into this Consent Agreement as a final disposition of this matter. The Respondent admits the following Findings of Fact, and does not contest the entry of the following Conclusions of Law and Order:

Respondent agrees:

- A. Respondent, having read the proposed Consent Order, acknowledges that she has the right to consult with counsel and now enters into this Consent Order on her own volition and without any reliance upon any representations by the Board or any officer, employee, agent or other representative thereof, other than as expressly set forth herein.
- B. Respondent hereby waives any further procedural steps including, without limitation, the right to a hearing and all rights to seek judicial review or to otherwise challenge or contest the validity of this Consent Order.
- C. Respondent agrees that the Board will review and determine whether to approve this Consent Order. Furthermore, Respondent agrees that should this Consent Order not be approved by the Board, the presentation and consideration of this Consent Order by the Board shall not unfairly or illegally

prejudice the Board or any of its members from further participation, consideration or resolution of the matters involved herein at any subsequent hearing.

- D. Respondent understands and agrees that approval and entry of this Consent Order shall not preclude additional proceedings by the Board against Respondent for acts or omissions not specifically addressed herein.
- E. Respondent understands and acknowledges that this Consent Order and the Board's records concerning this matter are public records and available to the public pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, Ark. Code Ann. § 25-19-101, *et seq.*
- F. This agreement shall not become a valid and enforceable order of this Board unless and until accepted and approved by the Board at an official meeting and executed by the Chair of the Board.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent is a licensed physical therapist assistant ("PTA") in the State of Arkansas.
2. Respondent was employed at Allen Therapy Services in El Dorado, AR
3. Respondent at all relevant times was an employee of Allen Therapy Services and under the supervision of supervising physical therapist Samuel Allen, PT 3021. Respondent was terminated from employment on or around April 19, 2024. At all relevant times, Allen Therapy Services provided contractual physical therapy services to Dermott School District and Hamburg School District, both of which are located in Arkansas.
4. On April 18, 2024, Mr. Allen was notified by a representative of Dermott School District that Respondent had provided documentation and treatment notes for patient therapy sessions that did not occur. These therapy sessions were purported by Respondent to have occurred between August 16, 2023 and February 22, 2024. The Dermott School District was billed for each session. However, twenty-seven (27) of these sessions were not performed as evidenced by Dermott School District Visitor Sign In/Out or Daily Student Schedule logs.
5. On April 26, 2024, representatives from the Hamburg School District documented eighteen (18) instances from January 2024 through April 2024 where Respondent purported to provide therapy session to a student in a special education class. The Hamburg School District was billed for each

session. School district representatives, in conjunction with the patient's teacher, determined that these eighteen sessions were not performed

6. On April 26, 2024, representatives from the Hamburg School District documented twenty-three (23) instances from August 2023 through April 2024 where Respondent purported to provide therapy sessions to a student in a special education class. The Hamburg School District was billed for each session. School district representatives, in conjunction with the patient's teacher, determined that these twenty-three (23) sessions were not performed.
7. In response to the complaint filed against Respondent by the Dermott School District, Respondent admits to incorrect billing dates or times for purported therapy sessions on September 20, 2023 and January 8, 2024.
8. In response to the complaint filed against Respondent by the Hamburg School District, Respondent admits to billing for therapy sessions on November 17, 2023 and February 27, 2024. Respondent further admits that the subject patient did not attend school on those dates.
9. Pursuant to the Board Rules, Section VIII(A)(4), "unprofessional conduct" includes charging unreasonable or fraudulent fees for services performed or not performed.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

10. The actions described in the Allegations of Fact constitute a violation of A.C.A. § 17-93-308(a)(3), which permits the Arkansas State Board of Physical Therapy to take disciplinary action against a licensee who, in the judgment of the Board, is guilty of unprofessional conduct.
11. The above-described actions constitute a violation of A.C.A. § 17-93-308(a)(3) and Board Rule VIII(A)(4) for charging fraudulent fees for services not performed.

ORDER

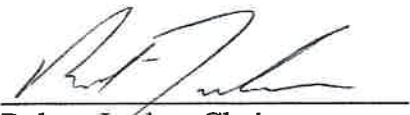
THEREFORE, IT IS SO ORDERED THAT:

1. Respondent's license be suspended for a minimum of fifteen months effective immediately.
2. Respondent agrees to pay a civil penalty in the amount of three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00). The penalty is to be paid within 90 days after the entry of this Consent Order.
3. At the end of fifteen months, Respondent is allowed to apply for reinstatement of her PTA license.

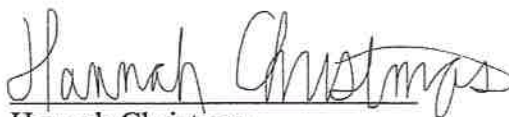
4. If Respondent applies for reinstatement, she will be required to meet with the Board and the Board will determine if Respondent's license will be reinstated. If Respondent's license is reinstated, the Board will determine the restrictions, if any, to place on her license.
5. The Board shall retain jurisdiction of this matter for purposes of implementing and enforcing this Consent Agreement, and Respondent's failure to comply with any term or condition of this Consent Agreement shall constitute grounds to impose disciplinary action pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 17-93-301 *et seq.*

ARKANSAS STATE BOARD
OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

6/21/24
Date


Robert Jordan, Chair
Ark. State Bd. of Physical Therapy

6-21-24
Date


Hannah Christmas
Respondent