

IN THE MATTER OF
CAROL J. COUGHLIN
APPLICANT

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BEFORE THE MARYLAND
BOARD OF PHYSICAL
THERAPY EXAMINERS

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CONSENT ORDER FOR INITIAL LICENSURE

BACKGROUND

On July 8, 2005, Ms. Coughlin submitted an application for licensure to the Maryland Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (the "Board") for a license to practice limited physical therapy. On her application, Ms. Coughlin marked "No" to the following questions:

2. Has a state, federal, or foreign licensing or disciplinary board or agency (including Maryland, DC and Puerto Rico), or a comparable body in the armed services, taken any action against your license?
3. Has a state, federal, or foreign licensing or disciplinary board or agency (including Maryland, DC and Puerto Rico), or a comparable body in the armed services, filed any complaints or charges against you, or investigated you for any reason?

The Board, however, received information from the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy ("FSBPT") that Ms. Coughlin had, in fact, been disciplined by the Florida Board of Physical Therapy Practice following the filing of an Administrative Complaint against her. The Board subsequently obtained copies of the Final Order Accepting Stipulation, dated April 24, 1998, the Stipulation, dated February 28, 1998, and the Administrative Complaint, dated January 5, 1998. As a result of the Final Order and Stipulation, Ms. Coughlin received a reprimand and was ordered to pay a \$250 fine. The basis for the Florida discipline was that Ms. Coughlin failed to obtain the necessary continuing education credits in order to renew her Florida license despite submitting a renewal application affirming that she had completed the requisite continuing education.

In lieu of issuing a Notice of Intent to Deny Ms. Coughlin's application for licensure in Maryland, the Board has voted to enter into this Consent Order with Ms. Coughlin as a resolution of this matter.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Ms. Coughlin received a formal reprimand and was fined \$250.00 in Florida for failing to obtain the requisite continuing education for licensure renewal although she signed an affirmation on her renewal application that she had done so.
2. Ms. Coughlin falsely answered in the negative two (2) questions on the Maryland Board's licensure application regarding whether any complaints had been filed against her or whether she had ever been disciplined by any other licensing board.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes that Ms. Coughlin has violated Md. Health Occ. Code Ann. §§13-316 (1), (11), and (13).

ORDER

Based on an affirmative vote of the Board, it is this 17th day of January, 2005,
hereby:

ORDERED that Ms. Coughlin's application for licensure to practice limited physical therapy be granted; and be it further,

ORDERED that Ms. Coughlin's license be placed on PROBATION for two (2) years, during the first year of which Ms. Coughlin shall take and pass the Maryland physical therapy law and ethics course; and be it further

ORDERED that the Board shall conduct an audit of Ms. Coughlin's continuing education credits for the next two (2) renewal terms; and be it further

ORDERED that if the Board has good faith reason to believe that the Respondent has violated any of the terms or conditions of this Consent Order, including the probationary terms set forth herein, the Board shall, unless emergency action is required, give the Respondent 20 days to respond in writing to the allegation. Upon receipt of the Respondent's response, or in the absence of a response, the Board shall, after giving the Respondent an opportunity to be heard, impose any penalty which it could have imposed under Md. Health Occ. Code Ann. § 13-316 or 13-407.1 for the offense that has already been proven or admitted in this case, including a reprimand, suspension and revocation, as well as the imposition of a monetary penalty; and be it further,

ORDERED that Ms. Coughlin shall be responsible for all costs associated with this Consent Order; and be it 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 the Md. State Govt. Code Ann. § 10-617(h).

January 17, 2006
Date

Margery Rodgers, P.T.
Margery Rodgers, P.T.
Chair, Board of Physical Therapy Examiners

CONSENT OF CAROL J. COUGHLIN, APPLICANT

I, Carol J. Coughlin, Applicant, by affixing my signature hereto, acknowledge that:

1. I have decided not to consult with an attorney before signing this document.
2. I am aware that I am entitled to a formal evidentiary hearing before the Board, pursuant to Md. Health Occ. Code Ann. § 13-317 (2000 Repl. Vol. and 2004 Supp.) and Md. State Govt. Code Ann. §§10-201 et seq. (2004 Repl. Vol.).
3. I acknowledge that if this matter went to a formal evidentiary hearing, 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 law.
4. I voluntarily enter into this Consent Order. I waive any right to contest the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and I waive my right to a full evidentiary hearing, as set forth above, and any right to appeal this Consent Order or as set forth in § 13-318 of the Act and Md. State Govt. Code Ann. §§10-201 et seq. (2004 Rep. Vol.).
5. I acknowledge that by failing to abide by the conditions set forth in this Consent Order, and, following proper procedures, I may suffer disciplinary action, which may include revocation of my license to practice dentistry in the State of Maryland.
6. I sign this Consent Order without reservation as my voluntary act and deed. I acknowledge that I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning, and terms of this Consent Order.

1/5/06
Date

Carol J. Coughlin
Carol J. Coughlin

NOTARY

STATE OF Maryland
CITY/COUNTY OF Anne Arundel

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT on this 5 day of January, 2006, before me, a Notary Public for the State of Maryland and the City/County aforesaid, personally appeared **Carol J. Coughlin, Applicant**, and made oath in due form of law that the foregoing Consent Order was her voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS my hand and Notarial Seal.


Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 10-01-08