

IN THE MATTER OF
CASSIUS EKHATOR
APPLICANT

* BEFORE THE STATE
* BOARD OF
* PHYSICAL THERAPY
* EXAMINERS
* CASE No.: PT-12-07

* * * * *

FINAL ORDER

On December 20, 2011, the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (the "Board") notified **CASSIUS EKHATOR** ("the Applicant") (DOB: 03/01/1972) of the Board's intent to deny his application for licensure as a physical therapy assistant under the Maryland Physical Therapy Act (the "Act"), Md. Health Occ. Code Ann. ("H.O.") § 13-101 *et seq.* (2009 Repl. Vol. and 2011 Supp.). The pertinent provisions state:

H.O. § 13-302. Qualifications of applicants – Generally.

(b) *Moral character.* – The applicant shall be of good moral character.

H.O. § 13-316. Denials, reprimands, probations, suspensions, and revocations – Grounds

Subject to the hearing provisions of 13-317 of this subtitle, the Board may deny a license or restricted license to any applicant, reprimand any licensee or holder of a restricted license, place any licensee or holder of a restricted license on probation, or suspend or revoke a license or restricted license if the applicant, licensee, or holder:

- (10) Is disciplined by a licensing or disciplinary authority of any state or country or convicted or disciplined by a court of any state or country or disciplined by any branch of the United States uniformed services or Veterans Administration for an act that would be grounds for disciplinary action under the Board's disciplinary statutes[.]

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board finds the following:

The Board intends to deny the Applicant's application for a license to practice as a physical therapy assistant based on the following facts that the Board believes are true:

1. On or about October 17, 2011, the Board received the Applicant's Application for Reinstatement Physical Therapy Assistant Licensure (the "application").

2. The Applicant is currently licensed in Washington, Utah, Connecticut, Michigan, and New York.

3. On his application, the Applicant answered, "yes" to the following question:

- a. 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, denied your application for licensure, reinstatement or renewal?

4. With his application, the Applicant provided an explanation for his affirmative answer. In his explanation, the Applicant stated that the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board (the "LA Board") denied his application to take the Physical Therapy Assistant examination because he took courses at a community college using an fictitious social security number, he failed to list on his application all of the jurisdictions in which he was licensed; and he failed to list "the exact times [that he had] taken the exam."

5. The Applicant admitted to using a fictitious social security number until such time as he obtained a valid social security number.

6. The Applicant further stated that his failure to list all of the jurisdictions of licensure and his failure to list all of the times that he had take the exam was due to carelessness, rather than an intent to deceive the LA Board.

7. Thereafter, the Board initiated an investigation.

8. During the course of the investigation, it was discovered that the Applicant applied for licensure in Louisiana, and was denied licensure, on seven occasions.¹ On each of the seven applications, the Applicant failed to disclose prior examinations taken, licensure in other states, and/or an invalid social security number.

9. After a hearing on June 23, 2011, the LA Board concluded that the Applicant does not possess the good moral character required for licensure, and that he "attempted to obtain a license by misrepresentation on repeated occasions."

10. The LA Board denied the Applicant's February 8, 2011 application and disqualified him from submitting any future applications to the LA Board.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes as a matter of law that the Applicant fails to meet the requirements for licensure under H.O. § 13-302(b) (2009 Repl. Vol. and 2011 Supp.) which provides that the applicant shall be of good moral character. The Board also concludes that the Applicant is in violation of H.O. §§ 13-316(10).

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 21st day of February 2012, the Board, by a majority of the quorum of the Board, hereby

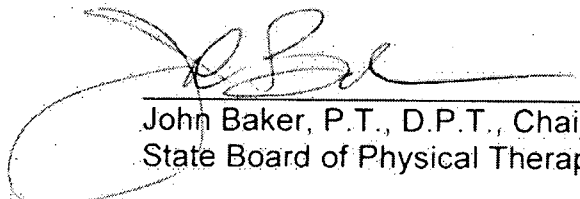
ORDERED that the Applicant's application for licensure to practice as a physical therapy assistant in the State of Maryland is hereby **DENIED**; and it is further

¹ The Applicant applied for licensure in Louisiana on April 20, 2001, June 15, 2002, August 2, 2002, September 14, 2002, March 21, 2003, January 13, 2009 and February 8, 2011.

ORDERED that for purposes of public disclosure and as permitted by Md. State Govt. Code Ann. § 10-617(h) (2009 Repl. Vol. and 2011 Supp.), this document consists of the contents 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 **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** pursuant to Md. State Govt. Code Ann. §§ 10-601 *et seq.* (2009 Repl. Vol. and 2011 Supp.).

2/21/12
Date



John Baker, P.T., D.P.T., Chair
State Board of Physical Therapy

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

Pursuant to Md. Health Occ. Code Ann. §19-313 (2009 Repl. Vol. and 2011 Supp.), you have a right to take a direct judicial appeal. A Petition for Judicial Review must be filed within thirty (30) days of your receipt of this Order and shall be made as provided for judicial review of a final decision in the Md. State Govt. Code Ann. §§ 10-201 *et seq.* (2009 Repl. Vol. and 2011 Supp.), and Title 7, Chapter 200 of the Maryland Rules.