

IN THE MATTER OF
RHONDA R. JONES, PTA
LICENSE NO. A2744

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BEFORE THE MARYLAND
BOARD OF PHYSICAL
THERAPY EXAMINERS

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PRE-CHARGE CONSENT ORDER

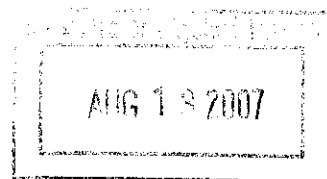
Background

On June 12, 2006, the Maryland Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (the "Board") received a complaint against Rhonda R. Jones, PTA, License No. A2744 (the "Respondent") regarding alleged false billings and unprofessional conduct. As a result of the Board's investigation into the matter, the Board had reason to believe that the Respondent had substance abuse issues that affected her ability to safely practice limited physical therapy. The Board's investigation further revealed that the Respondent had been arrested for Possession of Controlled Dangerous Substances – Not Marijuana, and that such charges were later dismissed. Based on information revealed during the Board's investigation, the Board ordered the Respondent to submit to a mental evaluation in accordance with Health Occ. § 13-316.1. The evaluation determined that the Respondent suffered from narcotics dependence and recommended several conditions that would enable the Respondent to safely continue to practice limited physical therapy.

In lieu of issuing Charges against the Respondent for violation of the Maryland Physical Therapy Act, Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 13-101 *et seq.*, the Board has voted to enter into this Pre-Charge Consent Order with the Respondent as a resolution of this matter.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. As a result of the Board's investigation into a complaint regarding the Respondent's alleged misconduct in the practice of limited physical therapy, the Board ordered the



Respondent to submit to a mental evaluation to determine whether the Respondent had substance abuse issues. The evaluator diagnosed the Respondent with narcotics dependence stemming from a prior back injury.

2. The evaluation also determined that, in November 2006, the Respondent voluntarily entered into a methadone treatment program. The Respondent relapsed into narcotics use once during the treatment program, but has since completed the program.
3. The Respondent is not currently receiving treatment for narcotics dependence issues.
4. The Board's evaluator recommended, among other things, that the Respondent continue in a formal substance abuse program that includes substance abuse therapy, and undergo random urine screenings.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes that Ms. Jones has violated Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§13-316(8) and (17).

ORDER

Based on an affirmative vote of a quorum of the Board, it is this 21st day of August, 2007, hereby:

ORDERED that the Respondent's license to practice limited physical therapy be placed on PROBATION for at least ONE (1) year; and be it further

ORDERED that during the probationary period, the Respondent shall:

(1) Not practice limited physical therapy in a home health setting;

(2) Immediately enter into and comply with a Board-approved substance abuse program

that includes, at minimum:

- a. substance abuse therapy; and

b. random monthly full drug screenings;

(3) Insure that the substance abuse program submits to the Board quarterly progress reports;

(4) Be treated by a physician who is familiar with the Respondent's narcotic history to monitor all of the Respondent's prescribed medications, including those prescribed by specialists; and be it further

ORDERED that Ms. Jones' execution of this Consent Order shall constitute a release of any and all medical health related records, substance abuse treatment records, and psychological/psychiatric records pertaining to Ms. Jones to the Board in complying with the terms and conditions set forth herein. Further, Ms. Jones agrees and consents to the release by the Board of any information or data produced as a result of this Consent Order to any treatment provider; and be it further,

ORDERED that Ms. Jones shall at all times cooperate with the Board and all treatment providers in the monitoring, supervision, and investigation of Ms. Jones' compliance with the terms and conditions of this Consent Order; and be it further,

ORDERED that Ms. Jones' failure to fully cooperate with the substance abuse program shall be deemed a Violation of Probation and a violation of this Consent Order and Ms. Jones may be subject to additional charges and discipline by the Board; and be it further,

ORDERED that in the event the Board finds for any good faith reason that Ms. Jones has relapsed, has violated any of the conditions of probation herein, or in the event that the Board finds for any good faith reason that Ms. Jones has committed a violation of Title 13 of the Health Occupations Article or regulations adopted thereunder, the Board may immediately SUSPEND Ms. Jones' license prior to a hearing, provided that Ms. Jones is given the opportunity for a show cause hearing before the Board with a reasonable period thereafter; and be it further,

ORDERED that Ms. Jones may petition the Board for release from probation no earlier than one (1) year after the date of this Consent Order provided that she has been in full

compliance with all of the terms of probation; and be it further,

ORDERED that Ms. Jones shall be responsible for all costs associated with this Consent Order; and be it further,

ORDERED that this is a formal order of the Maryland Board of Physical Therapy Examiners and as such is a public document pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, State Government Article, Section 10-617(h).

August 21, 2007
Date

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

CONSENT

1. By signing this Consent, I submit to the foregoing Consent Order as a resolution of this matter in lieu of formal charges, which process would have afforded me the right to a full evidentiary hearing. I consent and submit to the foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order as if made after a full evidentiary hearing in which I would have 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.
2. By signing this Consent, I waive any rights I may have had to contest the findings and determinations contained in this Consent Order.
3. I acknowledge the legal authority and the jurisdiction of the Board to enter and enforce this Consent Order.
4. I sign this Consent Order freely and voluntarily, after having had the opportunity to consult with counsel. I fully understand the language, meaning, and effect of this Consent Order.

8-1-07
Date

Rhonda R. Jones P.T.A.
Rhonda R. Jones, P.T.A.

STATE OF MARYLAND
COUNTY/CITY OF ALLEGANY :

I hereby certify that on this 20th day of AUGUST, 2007, before me, a Notary Public of the State of Maryland and County/City aforesaid, personally appeared RHONDA R. JONES and made an oath in due form that the foregoing Consent was her voluntary act and deed.

Gregory W. Smith
Notary Public
My commission expires: 09/01/09