

# LOUISIANA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY

IN THE MATTER OF

CHRISTY GRANT

LICENSE NO. 9620

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## ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION

Pursuant to La. R.S. 49:977.3(C), the Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy ("LBMT") summarily suspends License number 9620 issued to Christy Grant ("Ms. Grant") pending an administrative hearing scheduled for January 4th, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

This Order of Summary Suspension is effective as of 10/25/2023. Upon execution of this Order, Ms. Grant is not authorized to engage in the practice of massage therapy and must immediately cease and desist from the practice of massage therapy, as defined by La. R.S. 37:3552. Further, Ms. Grant must cease and desist from referring to herself as a licensed massage therapist.

### **I. INITIAL FINDINGS**

To protect public health, safety, and welfare, emergency action is required due to the nature of the allegations against Ms. Grant.

On September 7, 2023, the LBMT received a complaint from Marsha Thompson (LBMT License number 8086), owner of Release and Heal Massage (LBMT License number E4652) in-person at the LBMT office. Ms. Thompson advised that on September 6, 2023, she received a phone call from another individual, who advised her that Ms. Grant had been performing sexual acts on her clients at Release and Heal Massage. The individual informed Ms. Thompson that videos of Ms. Grant engaging in sexual acts with her clients were uploaded to a private Facebook group. Ms. Thompson learned that the acts happened when she was not present at Release and Heal Massage, including the following dates: May 25-28, 2023; June 4-14, 2023; and July 4-10,

2023. Ms. Thompson advised that nine women and six men have been to Release and Heal Spa and participated in sexual acts with Ms. Grant at Release and Heal Spa. The individual also provided Ms. Thompson with a video that purported to show Ms. Grant performing oral sex on a female client at Release and Heal Massage. Ms. Thompson provided this video to the LBMT.

On Friday, September 8, 2023, Ms. Thompson was contacted by a woman who thought Ms. Thompson was part of the group and invited her to a party in New Orleans. The group is allegedly a business that consists of swingers and polyamorous couples. The individual stated that her husband had received a “few massages and fellatios” from Ms. Grant at Release and Heal Spa. According to this individual, Ms. Grant told people in the group that she was the owner of the business. Ms. Thompson was further informed that Ms. Grant received cash in exchange for performing sexual acts on clients.

Based on the foregoing, it is alleged that Ms. Grant violated the following rules and regulations applicable to the LBMT:

**Code of Conduct for Massage Therapists, La. Admin Code. tit. 46, Pt XLIV, §3101, et seq.:**

**§3101 Prohibitions of Sexual Activity**

- A. All sexual activity by any person or persons in any massage establishment is absolutely prohibited.
- B. No massage establishment owner or operator shall engage in, or permit any person or persons to engage in, sexual activity in a massage establishment or to use that establishment to make arrangements to engage in sexual activity in any other place.
- C. No massage therapist shall engage in sexual activity with a current client of the therapist.

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- E. As used in this Rule and §5301 of this Part:
  - a. sexual activity—includes:

- i. coital sexual intercourse;
  - ii. anal sexual intercourse;
  - iii. fellatio, cunnilingus;
  - iv. masturbation;
  - ...
  - b. the purposeful touching of the genitals of another person...whether through draping or clothing, whether resulting in penetration or orgasm or not, and whether by instrumental manipulation, touching with the hands, or other bodily contact;
  - c. any sexual offenses proscribed by the criminal laws of Louisiana including, but not limited to, R.S. 14:83.3 and 83.4.
- F. For purposes of this rule, the term *client* means and includes any person receiving massage therapy services provided for compensation....

**La. R.S. 37:3563 Grounds for Discipline**

- A. The board may suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue or renew a license after notice and opportunity for hearing pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act, upon proof of any of the following:

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- (3) Engaging in unprofessional conduct that has endangered or that is likely to endanger the health, welfare, or safety of the public, as further defined by rules of the board.

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- (6) Violating or aiding and abetting in the violation of any provisions of this Chapter or the rules and regulations promulgated hereunder....

**II. DECISION AND ORDER**

To maintain public health, safety, and welfare, emergency action is required due to the allegations set forth in the allegations in the complaint against Ms. Grant. Accordingly, LBMT License number 9620 issued to Christy Grant is SUSPENDED, effective immediately, pending proceedings for revocation of licensure or other action as the Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy deems fit.



Proceedings before the Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy shall be promptly instituted and determined. Accordingly, an administrative hearing before the Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy is scheduled for **January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.**, at the at the Jones Creek Library, 6222 Jones Creek Road, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70817. The hearing panel will consist of current Board Members. The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, the Louisiana Massage Therapists and Establishments Act, and the rules promulgated by the LBMT.

Christy Grant will be given a full opportunity to appear and be heard, with or without counsel, and is entitled to hear a statement of what accusations have been made against her, to present evidence, to cross-examine witnesses, and to have witnesses subpoenaed. Ms. Grant may request that subpoenas be issued by the Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy and must send a request to the Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy office at least 10 days prior to the hearing, listing the names and addresses of the individuals to be subpoenaed, along with a brief summary as to what the individual will testify. The testimony will be under oath and a court reporter will record the proceedings at the hearing, and any party wishing to obtain a transcript of the hearing may do so at his expense.

Date: 10/25/23

  
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Memry Tucker  
Complaint Investigation Officer  
Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy