

LOUISIANA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY

IN THE MATTER OF:

LAUREN PYLE, Massage Therapist License No. 4014 (EXPIRED)

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER

Pursuant to La. R.S. 37:3555(A)(1), LAC 46:XLIV.2101 and 6101 and the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, an administrative hearing was held on August 23, 2024, before the Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy ("Board") relative to the renewal application submitted by Lauren Pyle. The hearing was conducted in executive session pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17(A)(1).

Present were: Toshii Cooper; Amie Dudziniski; Kathryn Lea Love, Chair; Karla Swacker; and Rosemary H. Wilkinson, Board Members;

Sheri M. Morris, Counsel for the Board;

James Raines, Complaint Counsel; and

Lauren Pyle ("Respondent").

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On February 6, 2007, Massage Therapist License No. 4014 was issued by the Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy ("Board") to LAUREN PYLE ("Respondent"). An application to renew Massage Therapist License No. 4014 was submitted on or about March 20, 2024, prior to its expiration on March 31, 2024.
2. Respondent disclosed on the renewal application a plea of "guilty" to charges of schedule II possession of methamphetamine, on January 11, 2024, for an incident on May 18, 2023.
3. On July 1, 2024, the Board sent a Notice of Intent to Deny Application for Licensure Renewal and Notice of Hearing to Respondent via email and U.S. Regular and Certified Mail No. 9589 0710 5270 1222 6763 15 and advised the administrative hearing would be held on August 23, 2024.
4. Respondent is enrolled in the Jefferson Parish Specialty Program for her sentence and on probation for 5 years.
5. Respondent's Drug Court Case Manager confirmed Respondent is currently in Phase 2 of the Program and is compliant with all requirements. Respondent is required to attend group counseling twice a week, attend court bi-weekly, take drug tests several times a week, and meet with the Case Manager once a week. The Case Manager believes Respondent is doing very well in the program and is an excellent example to other participants.
6. Respondent's Probation Specialist confirmed Respondent has been under supervision by the Parole and Probation Office in East Jefferson Parish since January 11, 2024, and will be subject to supervision until January 11, 2029. She is confident Respondent will complete

the program in the minimum time period of 18 months at which time she will request termination of her supervision. The Specialist confirmed Respondent is in compliance with the conditions of probation.

7. Respondent's employer provided a statement confirming Respondent has been a valued member of the team for 15 years and requested for the Board to reinstate her license.
8. Several of Respondent's co-workers provided statements confirming Respondent's exceptional character and requested the Board to reinstate her license.
9. Respondent testified she has been licensed since 2007 and, has not been involved in any other violations related to her practice. She has not worked since receiving the Notice of Intent to Deny.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. La. R.S. 37:3563(A) authorizes the Board to "[S]uspend, revoke, or refuse to...renew a license after notice and opportunity for hearing pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act, upon proof of...[c]onviction of a felony..."
2. L.A.C. 46:XLIV.2101(B)(9) authorizes the Board to impose terms and conditions "reasonably designed to protect the public health and safety."

ORDER

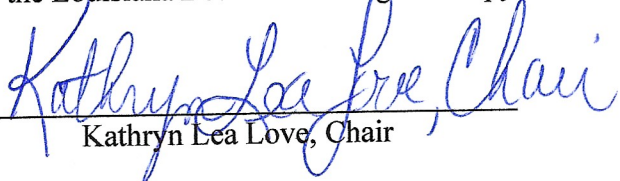
Considering the evidence, the nature of the offense, the facts relevant to the circumstances including mitigating circumstances and social conditions surrounding the offense and evidence of rehabilitation;

IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the renewal application of Lauren Pyle for Massage Therapy License No. 4014 is hereby granted subject to the following conditions to protect the public health and safety until completion of probation:

1. Respondent shall provide to the Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy ("Board") quarterly reports showing compliance with the terms of probation imposed by the Jefferson Parish Judicial District Specialty Court beginning on October 1, 2024;
2. Respondent shall provide the Board with a copy of every document issued by the Jefferson Parish Judicial District Specialty Court regarding any change in the status of probation immediately following receipt of said document;
3. Respondent shall perform services only at current employment unless approved by the Board; and
4. Failure to abide by the foregoing conditions or with the terms of probation imposed by the Jefferson Parish Judicial District Specialty Court shall be sufficient grounds to summarily suspend Massage Therapist License No. 4014.

Signed this 5th day of September 2024.

For the Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy



Kathryn Lea Love, Chair

Please notify via Certified U.S. Mail and Regular Mail:

Lauren Pyle
4909 Transcontinental Dr
Metairie, LA 70006