

Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



July 30, 2019

Mr. Aaron J. Raymond
325 Columbia Street
Shreveport, LA 71104

RE: Notice of Disciplinary Action - Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy License No LA5521

Consent Agreement

Dear Mr. Raymond:

Upon evaluating your response to the disciplinary notice and other information related to the complaint lodged against you in May of 2019, the Board's Complaint Investigative Officer (CIO) determined that there was a sufficient basis to proceed with a formal disciplinary hearing regarding allegations that you engaged in conduct with a client that would be considered a violation of the following Board Rules which are found in LAC 46: XLIV:

Chapter 9 – §901 Code of Ethics

(A) "A massage therapist shall: . . . (12) "refrain, under all circumstances, from initiating or engaging in any romantic or sexual conduct, sexual activities, or sexual behavior involving a client even if the client attempts to pursue a sexual relationship"

Chapter 31 – §3101 Prohibition of Sexual Activity

(C) No massage therapist shall engage in sexual activity with a current client of the therapist.

(E) As used in this rule and §5301 of this Part:

(a) Sexual activity – includes:

(b) the purposeful touching of the genitals of another person . . .

Chapter 55 §5501 – Guidelines for Disciplinary Actions, provides as follows:

(A) When the board finds than an applicant or licensee whom it regulates has committed any of the prohibited acts set forth in the statutes or rules, the board may impose appropriate penalties with the ranges recommended in the following disciplinary guidelines.

(B). Penalties imposed by the board pursuant to this Section may be imposed in combination or individually, and are as follows:

1. refusal to license an applicant; revocation or suspension of license;
2. Issuance of a reprimand or censure;
3. Imposition of an administrative fine not to exceed \$1,000 for each count or separate offense.

After careful consideration of your situation, the CIO is willing to recommend to the board that this matter be resolved by way of a Consent Agreement under which the following terms and conditions will be imposed and agreed upon:

1. Your current license (La. 5521) will be suspended and you will not be eligible to renew your therapist license until after July 31, 2020. A renewal fee of \$125 must be paid upon filing the renewal application.

2. A fine of \$1,000 will be imposed, which fine must be paid within 60 days from the execution of this Consent Agreement.

3. During the period of the suspension and before being eligible to apply to have your license reinstated, you must present proof to the board office that you have taken at least 4 hours of ethics training dealing with client interaction and avoiding sexual misconduct. You may contact the board office to obtain information as to potential sources of the ethics training.

4. During the period of suspension and for the remainder of 2020, you will be under probationary status and if there should be any additional violations of the board statutes or rules before December 31, 2020, the revocation period may be extended or you may be declared to be permanently ineligible for licensure in Louisiana. You are not authorized to engage in the practice of massage therapy in the State of Louisiana until your license has been reinstated.

5. Notice of the disciplinary action will be posted on the board website as a suspension for inappropriate conduct with a client. The matter will also remain on record and if similar complaints are filed in the future, it will be considered a basis for the Board to seek a permanent revocation of your license.

If you are agreeable to the implementation of the sanctions set forth above as a Consent Agreement, please indicate your acceptance by signing where indicated below on the extra copy of this letter and returning it to the board office on or before August 6, 2019. The Consent Agreement will then be presented to the full Board for review and action at the Board meeting scheduled for August 16, 2016.

If you elect not enter into this Consent Agreement thereby resolving this complaint or if you do not return the acceptance of the proposed Consent Agreement by August 6, 2019, the formal disciplinary hearing which is currently set for hearing at the August 16, 2019 board meeting will proceed as scheduled.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, you may contact the Board office.

Sincerely,

Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy

By: 
Rhonda McManus, Executive Director

Acknowledgment

I, Aaron J. Raymond, do pledge and agree to abide by the terms of this Consent Agreement. I understand that if I violate this terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement, I will be subject to further disciplinary action which could include penalties up to and including a permanent revocation of my Louisiana license to engage in the practice of Massage Therapy.



Aaron J. Raymond

Date: 7/30/19, 2019.