

LOUISIANA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY

IN THE MATTER OF

SHAMBALA MASSAGE THERAPY, LLC

LICENSE NO. E4619

CHONGMEI WEI

LICENSE NO. 9608

LI MA

LICENSE NO. 9289

ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION

Pursuant to La. R.S. 49:961(C), the Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy (“LBMT”) summarily suspends License number E4619 issued to Shambala Massage Therapy, LLC (“Shambala”), License number 9608 issued to Chongmei Wei (“Wei”), License number 9289 issued to Li Ma (“Ma”), and License number 9558 issued to Meiyong Jiao (“Jiao”), pending an administrative hearing scheduled for April 8, 2022, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

This Order of Summary Suspension is effective as of March 7, 2022. Upon execution of this Order, Ms. Wei, and Ms. Ma are 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. Wei, and Ms. Ma must cease and desist from referring to themselves as a licensed massage therapist. Additionally, Shambala must immediately cease and desist from providing massage therapy services.

I. INITIAL FINDINGS

To protect public health, safety, and welfare, emergency action is required due to the nature of the allegations against Ms. Wei, and Ms. Ma. On January 25, 2022, the LBMT received information regarding the issuance of summons to Ms. Wei relative to charges of prostitution. Further, on February 16, 2022, a Subpoena Duces Tecum was issued for information from the

Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office relative to the summons issued to Ms. Wei. According to the LBMT records, Shambala is owned by Roy Travis McDow, who is not licensed by the LBMT. Ms. Ma is listed as the sole massage therapist at Shambala on its LBMT license application.

On January 22, 2022, the Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office received an anonymous tip in reference to prostitution acts at Shambala (1416 Airline Drive, Bossier City, Louisiana, 71112).¹ On January 25, 2022, an agent with the Bossier Sheriff/Police Narcotics Task Force began an investigation into the anonymous tip. After the officer searched an online prostitution website ("Skip the Games") and found an advertisement for Shambala, he contacted Shambala and spoke with an unknown female. The female stated that the officer could immediately come in for a one-hour massage. The undercover officer entered Shambala equipped with a live listening device and \$140.00 cash. Other agents parked near the business at a staging area.

Upon entering Shambala, the officer was met by an Asian female, later identified as Ms. Wei. Ms. Wei advised the officer that a one-hour massage would cost \$60.00. The officer gave Ms. Wei a one-hundred-dollar bill. Ms. Wei walked him into a room and instructed him to undress and lay on the table. Ms. Wei then exited the room.

When Ms. Wei returned to the room, the officer was on the table, covered by the towel. Ms. Wei removed the towel, exposing the officer's genitals and buttocks. While giving the massage, Ms. Wei repeatedly rubbed her hands between the officer's legs and touched his genitals. After approximately thirty minutes, Ms. Wei told the officer to roll onto his back. Ms. Wei grabbed the officer's penis and asked if he was interested in oral sex. Ms. Wei informed the officer that it would cost \$40.00. The officer agreed to the price but told Ms. Wei that she should have to finish

¹ The physical address listed on Shambala's license application is 8730 Hwy 169, Mooringsport, Louisiana, 71060.

massaging his shoulders. After a few minutes, the officer told Ms. Wei that he needed to leave and that he would return. He gave Ms. Wei \$40.00 and exited the business.

After advised officers at a staging area that a prostitution deal was made and gave them a description of Ms. Wei, the officers returned to the business and made contact with Ms. Wei. Ms. Wei was issued a summons for Prostitution, a violation of La. R.S. 14:82.

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

Code of Conduct for Licensed Professional Counselors, 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.
- 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. 37:3558 Massage establishments

- C. For purposes of this Chapter, “sexually oriented business” means a sex parlor, massage parlor, nude studio, modeling studio, love parlor...or other commercial enterprise which has as its primary business the offering of a service or the sale, rent, or exhibit of devices or any other items intended to provide sexual stimulation or sexual gratification to the customer.
- D. A sexually oriented business shall be ineligible for registration as a massage establishment and shall not operate as a massage establishment.

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:
 - (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.
 - (6) Violating or aiding and abetting in the violation of any provisions of this Chapter or the rules and regulations promulgated hereunder.
- D. The board shall revoke the license of any person if the board determines that the establishment is a sexually oriented business, as defined in R.S. 37:3558(C)...

II. DECISION AND ORDER

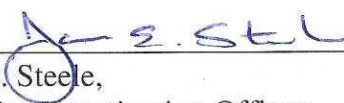
To maintain public health, safety, and welfare, emergency action is required due to the allegations set forth in the allegations in the complaint against Shambala, Ms. Ma, and Ms. Wei. Accordingly, summary suspension of LBMT License number E4619 issued to Shambala Massage Therapy, LLC, License number 9608 issued to Chongmei Wei, and License number 9289 issued to Li Ma, effective immediately, pending proceedings for a 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 April 8, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the Louisiana State Archives Building,

3851 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70809. 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.

Shambala Massage Therapy, Chongmei Wei, and Li Ma will be given a full opportunity to appear and be heard, with or without counsel, and are entitled to hear a statement of what accusations have been made against them, to present evidence, to cross-examine witnesses, and to have witnesses subpoenaed. Shambala Massage Therapy, Ms. Wei, and /or Ms. Ma 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 5 days prior to the hearing, listing the names and addresses of the individuals to be subpoenaed, along with a brief summary of what the individual will testify to. 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 their expense.

Date: 3/07/2022



James E. Steele,
Complaint Investigation Officer
Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy