

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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In The Matter of :
FARA SPRING, O.T. :
(Certificate No. Z11805) :
: X

No. 09-I-331
INTERIM
CONSENT ORDER

This matter is before the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") in connection with an ongoing investigation by the Investigating Officer of the Board of Fara Spring, OT, ("Ms. Spring"), an occupational therapist who at all times pertinent has been licensed to practice occupational therapy in the state of Louisiana and principally engaged in such practice in and around Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Apparently reliable information gathered to date indicates that Ms. Spring was the subject of an investigation by her employer Vital Link, A Home Health Company in Metairie, LA with a branch office in Baton Rouge, LA, that culminated in her termination for fraud after she submitted bills for occupational therapy visits which were not done, and for which she had forged patient's signatures on visit notes. Such information further indicates that Ms. Spring admitted that her behaviors were attributed to a mental condition which was not controlled causing a severe manic episode resulting in her poor decisions and behavior. Initially, Ms. Spring failed to respond to numerous inquiries by the Board investigators; however, the Board has learned that Ms. Spring recently began evaluation and treatment for a previously diagnosed mental condition which condition she failed to report on prior renewal applications to the Board. This conduct raises the concern that she is suffering from a condition which could affect her ability to practice occupational therapy with reasonable skill and safety to patients.

Predicated upon such information, the Investigating Officer recommended, and Ms. Spring agreed, to discontinue practice and undergo evaluation and recommended treatment and therapy.

Predicated upon the information outlined above, the Investigating Officer has determined that reasonable cause exists for recommending that a formal Administrative Complaint be filed against Ms. Spring, charging her with violation of the Louisiana Occupational Therapy Practice Act and the Board's Rules and Regulations pertaining to Occupational Therapists.¹

¹ La. Rev. Stat. §37.3011(A) provides that the board may take action against the licensee or applicant who has been found guilty of unprofessional conduct which has endangered or is likely to endanger the health, welfare, or

As evidenced by her subscription hereto, Ms. Spring acknowledges the right to have written notification of any charges that may be asserted, as well as the right to have evidence of such charges asserted during an administrative hearing at which time she will be entitled to be represented by legal counsel, to call witnesses and to present evidence in defense or in mitigation of the charges made, and to a decision thereon by the Board based upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law, pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §~49:951, *et seq.* While maintaining such rights Ms. Spring, nonetheless, hereby consents to the indefinite suspension of her license to practice occupational therapy in this state, with reinstatement thereof subject to the terms and conditions of this Order. By her subscription hereto, Ms. Spring authorizes the Investigating Officer designated by the Board with respect hereto to present this Interim Consent Order to the Board for its consideration and to fully discuss with and disclose to the Board the nature and extent of such charges and she waives any objection to such disclosures under La. Rev. Stat. §49:960. Ms. Spring expressly acknowledges that disclosure of such information to the Board by the Investigating Officer shall be without prejudice to the Investigating Officer's authority to prosecute the abovementioned charges and/or any additional administrative charges that may be filed in this matter or to the Board's capacity to adjudicate such charges.

Accordingly, in consideration of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by La. Rev. Stat. §37:3011, La. Admin. C. §46:4921 and La. Rev. Stat. §49:955(D);

IT IS ORDERED that the license of Fara Spring, OT, to engage in the practice of occupational therapy in the State of Louisiana, as evidenced by Certificate No. Z11805, be and the same is hereby, effective as of the date hereof, **INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Fara Spring, OT, shall not practice occupational therapy in any form in the state of Louisiana until and unless the Board issues and serves a written decision reinstating her license to practice following: (1) receipt of satisfactory documentation that Ms. Spring has undergone a recent evaluation (within sixty (60) days), at a facility approved by the Board, has successfully completed any recommended treatment, is in compliance with any recommendations for therapy or monitoring offered or prescribed, and her treating physicians have determined that she is capable of resuming practice with skill and safety to patients; (2) written documentation demonstrating conclusion of any pending criminal charges, in the event such should occur; (3) a meeting at the Board office with the Director of Investigations; and (4) the conclusion of the pending investigation by administrative hearing and final decision of the Board on any charges that may be filed in these proceedings including, but not limited to, those identified in this Order; or alternatively, by the Board's acceptance of a Consent Order or other order or recommendation respecting disposition of the pending investigation.

safety of the public. La Adm. C. §46XLV.4921.B.4. and 13. define ~unprofessional conduct' as: 4. '[P]roviding false testimony before the board or providing false sworn information to the board;' and 13. '[I]nability to practice occupational therapy with reasonable competence. skill or safety to patients because of mental or physical illness, condition or deficiency, including but not limited to deterioration through the aging process and excessive use or abuse of drugs, including alcohol.'

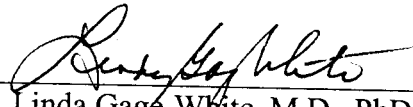
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any violation or failure of strict compliance with any of the terms, conditions or restrictions set forth by this Order by Ms. Spring shall be deemed adequate and sufficient cause, upon proof of such violation or failure, for the revocation and cancellation of Ms. Spring's license to practice occupational therapy in the state of Louisiana or for such other action as the Board may deem appropriate, as if such violations were enumerated among the causes provided in La. Rev. Stat. §37:3011.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Interim Consent Order shall be, and shall be deemed to be, a public record.

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 21st day of September 2009.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:


Linda Gage-White, M.D., PhD
President

*Acknowledgment and Consent
On Following Page*

In the Matter of:
Fara Spring, O.T.

INTERIM
CONSENT ORDER

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STATE OF Louisiana

PARISH/COUNTY OF Orleans

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSENT**

I, Fara Spring, hereby acknowledge, approve, accept and consent to entry of the above and foregoing Order, this 25th day of August, 2009.

Fara Spring, UT
FARA SPRING, OT

WITNESSES:

[Signature]
Signature

Charles KLETTMAN
Printed Name

L.S.B.M.E.
Address

[Signature]
Signature

SOB C Bowck Sr.
Printed Name

LSBME
Address

Sworn to and subscribed before me at New Orleans Louisiana, this 25th day of August, 2009, in the presence of the two stated witnesses.

Thania S. Elliott
Notary Public

Print name THANIA S. ELLIOTT

Bar/Notary No.: LA Bar # 20799