

Commonwealth of Kentucky
Kentucky Board of Physical Therapy
Agency Case No. C2020-07
Administrative Action No. 20-KBPT-_____

Commonwealth of Kentucky,
Board of Physical Therapy

Complainant

Order

Melissa Laker, PTA Reinstatement Applicant
(Certificate No. A01931)

Respondent

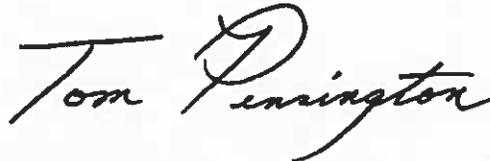
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Kentucky Board of Physical Therapy, having met on July 9, 2020, and having voted on the above-styled case, hereby adopts and incorporates the attached Settlement Agreement.

It is so ordered.

Dated this 13th day of July 2020

Kentucky Board of Physical Therapy



By:

**Tom Pennington, PT
Chair**

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a true and accurate copy of the foregoing Order and Settlement Agreement was mailed, by both certified return receipt requested and first-class postage prepaid this 13th day of July 2020 to:

Melissa Laker, PTA
129 Wilson Ct.
Huntington, WV 25701
Respondent

M. Keith Poynter, ESQ
450 South Third Street
Louisville, KY 40202
Counsel for the Board



Scott D. Majors, Executive Director

**Commonwealth of Kentucky
Kentucky Board of Physical Therapy
Agency Case No. BIC 2020-07
Administrative Action No. 20-KBPT-**

**Commonwealth of Kentucky,
Board of Physical Therapy**

Complainant

Conditional Reinstatement and Settlement Agreement

**Melissa Laker, PTA Reinstatement Applicant
(Certificate No. A01931)**

Respondent

* * * * *

Whereas, the Kentucky Board of Physical Therapy (“Board”) having voted to file a Notice of Administrative Hearing and Order, based on an initiating complaint and an investigation completed by the Board regarding Melissa Laker, PTA, with an address of; 129 Wilson Court, Huntington, WV 25701(“Respondent”), and;

For the purposes of this Settlement Agreement, the Respondent admits the Board would be able to prove by a preponderance of the evidence at an administrative hearing before the Board, the following:

- 1) One (1) count of a violation of KRS 327.070(2)(g) “Obtaining or attempting to obtain a license or certificate by fraud or material misrepresentation or making any other false statement to the Board.”

Whereas, the parties mutually desire to settle the issues in an expeditious manner, without the need for a formal hearing;

It is hereby stipulated and agreed between the undersigned parties this matter shall be settled and resolved upon the following terms:

Voluntary Waiver of Rights

The Respondent has had the opportunity at all times to seek the advice from competent counsel of choice. No coercion has been exerted upon the Respondent, nor have any promises been made other than those reflected in this Settlement Agreement. The Respondent has freely and voluntarily entered into this Settlement Agreement, motivated only by a desire to resolve the issues addressed herein. The Respondent has executed this Settlement Agreement only after a careful reading of it and a full understanding of all of its terms. The Respondent waives the right to challenge any agreed upon term or condition of this Settlement Agreement notwithstanding any other statutory provision of KRS Chapter 327, and the Respondent expressly agrees those agreed upon terms and conditions contained therein are exclusively a matter of private right.

The Respondent is fully aware of the rights to contest charges in a formal hearing. These rights include: representation by an attorney at the Respondent's own expense, the right to a public hearing on charges contained in any Notice of Administrative Hearing, the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses called to testify against the Respondent, the right to present evidence on the Respondent's behalf, the right to compulsory process to secure the attendance of such witnesses, the right to testify on the Respondent's own behalf, the right to receive written findings of fact and conclusions of law supporting the decision on the merits of a Notice of Administrative Hearing, the right to obtain judicial review of the Board's decision, and the right to appeal any Final Order of the Board to the Franklin Circuit Court as otherwise allowed by KRS 327.075(4). All of these rights are being voluntarily waived by the Respondent in exchange for the Board's acceptance of this Settlement Agreement.

Jurisdiction

The Respondent acknowledges the Board has jurisdiction over the Respondent and the conduct which has precipitated this Settlement Agreement. The Respondent also acknowledges the Board has the legal power to take disciplinary action up to and including revocation of the Respondent's certificate to work as a physical therapy assistant in Kentucky. The Respondent maintains, and the Board acknowledges, that the Respondent is not admitting any wrongdoing, but understands that sufficient evidence exists that the Board may prevail at a hearing of this matter, and as such, the Respondent wishes to enter into this Settlement Agreement.

The Respondent acknowledges the Board will retain jurisdiction over this matter until all terms and conditions set forth in this Settlement Agreement have been met to the satisfaction of the Board.

Publication of Settlement Agreement

The Respondent acknowledges, once adopted by the Board, this Settlement Agreement is considered a public document, available for inspection at any time by any member of the public under the Kentucky Open Records Act. Further, the Respondent understands the Board is free to make any use it deems appropriate of the contents of this Settlement Agreement, which shall include the Board's ability to share the content of this Settlement Agreement with any governmental or professional Board or organization, publication of a summary in the Board's newsletter and availability via the Board's website, and reporting under federal law.

Terms of Disciplinary Action

The parties agree to the following as the agreed upon disciplinary action:

- 1) The Respondent is officially reprimanded, with this Settlement Agreement constituting the Reprimand.
- 2) The Respondent agrees to completely and accurately inform the Board of any other criminal actions against her in future applications and renewals.

- 3) The Respondent agrees to be more diligent and forthcoming in all correspondence and communication with the Board, and Board Staff in the future.
- 4) The Respondent acknowledges that this matter may be reviewed in the event of future disciplinary actions taken against her by the Board.
- 5) The Respondent further acknowledges that this Settlement Agreement may be grounds for enhanced penalties upon a finding of any future violations of KRS 327 or the associated administrative regulations.

Duty to Cooperate with the Board

The Respondent agrees to permit and cooperate with the Board, its members, agents, and employees, to monitor the Respondent's compliance with the terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement.

The Respondent expressly understands failure to comply with and complete all terms of this Settlement Agreement shall constitute a violation of KRS 327.070(2)(k) for failing or refusing to obey any lawful order of the board, for which the Board may impose additional penalties available under law after notice and opportunity to be heard. The Respondent agrees to indemnify the Board for any costs, including reasonable attorney's fees, if the Board finds, after notice and opportunity to be heard, that the Respondent has failed to comply with any provision of this Settlement Agreement.

Resolution of Pending Charges

The Notice of Administrative Hearing and Order is hereby resolved pending only a majority vote of the Board adopting this Settlement Agreement as an Order of the Board.

Release of Liability

In consideration of execution of this Settlement Agreement, the Respondent, the Respondent's executors, administrators, successors and assigns, hereby releases and forever

discharges the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Kentucky Board of Physical Therapy, and the Kentucky Attorney General and each of their members, agents, and employees in their individual and representative capacities, from any and all manner of actions, causes of action, suits, debts, judgments, executions, claims and demands whatsoever, known and unknown, in law or equity, the Respondent ever had, now has, may have or claim to have against any or all of the persons or entities named in this paragraph arising out of or by reason of this investigation, this disciplinary action, this Settlement Agreement, or its administration.

Acceptance by the Board

It is hereby agreed between the parties this Settlement Agreement shall be presented to the Kentucky Board of Physical Therapy at the next regularly-scheduled meeting of the Board.

The Respondent understands the Board is free to accept or reject this Settlement Agreement, and if rejected by the Board, a formal disciplinary hearing against the Respondent may be scheduled thereafter with the Hearing Officer and counsel. The Respondent hereby agrees to waive any right the Respondent might have to challenge the impartiality of the Board, based solely upon the presentation of this Settlement Agreement, to hear the disciplinary charges if, after review by the Board, this Settlement Agreement is rejected.

If the Settlement Agreement is not accepted by the Board, it shall be regarded as null and void. Admissions by the Respondent in the Settlement Agreement will not be regarded as evidence against the Respondent at the subsequent disciplinary hearing. The Respondent will be free to defend and no inferences against the Respondent will be made from the Respondent's willingness to have entered into this Settlement Agreement.

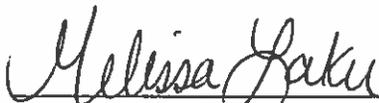
The Settlement Agreement will not be submitted for Board consideration until after it has been agreed to and executed by the Respondent. The Settlement Agreement shall not become

effective until it has been approved by a majority of the Board and endorsed by a representative member of the Board.

Complete Agreement

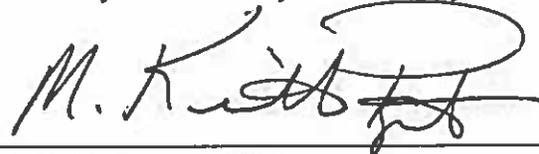
This Settlement Agreement consists of six (6) pages and embodies the entire agreement between the Board and the Respondent. This Settlement Agreement shall constitute a binding contract between the Respondent and the Board, subject only to approval by the Board as set forth above. The Respondent shall not rescind, revoke, withdraw, or request to modify this Settlement Agreement prior to or during its presentation to the Board at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. It may not be altered, amended or modified without the express written consent of both parties.

Have Seen, Understood, and Approved:



Melissa Laker PT/A
129 Wilson Court,
Huntington, WV 25701
Respondent

Kentucky Board of Physical Therapy



M. Keith Poynter, ESQ
450 South Third Street
Louisville, KY 40202
Counsel for the Board

Date: 6/20/20

Date: 7/10/20