

IN THE MATTER OF

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BEFORE THE STATE

DEBRA BLOCK, D.C

BOARD OF

License Number S02149

CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS

CONSENT ORDER OF FINE

On or about January 8, 2024, the Maryland State Board of Chiropractic Examiners (the “Board”) received a “CA Registration and Examination Application” from a Chiropractic Assistant (“CA”) applicant (herein known as “Person A”). The Board contacted Debra Block (the “Respondent”), whom Person A designated as her Supervising Chiropractor, and notified her that the Board had not received an initial “Request to Employ” application for the CA Training Program for Person A. The Board conducted an investigation. At the conclusion of that investigation, the Board had cause to believe that the Respondent violated the Maryland Chiropractic Act by failing to adhere to certain portions of the Board’s regulations concerning the employment of chiropractic assistant trainees. On May 9, 2024, the Respondent and her counsel attended a settlement conference with Board representatives in an effort to reach a resolution of the case prior to the issuance of formal charges. Subsequent to the settlement conference, the Respondent conducted a compliance check of her practice, and it was indicated that the Respondent had failed to register with the Board to practice dry needling as required by COMAR 10.43.16.05. The Respondent and the Board subsequently agreed to the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order.

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board makes the following findings of fact:

1. The Respondent is a licensed chiropractor in the State of Maryland, license number S02149. During the period in question, Respondent was the supervising chiropractor for Person A, who was training to be a chiropractic assistant.
2. On or about January 8, 2024, the Board received a "CA Registration and Examination Application" for Person A. The Board contacted the Respondent to let her know the Board had not received a "Request to Employ" application requesting permission from the Board to have Person A begin the CA training program, including hands-on clinical training supervised by the Respondent. On or about January 10, 2024, Respondent contacted the Board to report there had been miscommunication between Respondent and Person A regarding the submission of initial paperwork.
3. A review of Person A's CA training log shows that Person A began training as early as March of 2023. Indeed, Person A had already begun the training process without first receiving permission from the Board, which is required by the Board's regulations. Specifically, COMAR 10.43.07.02.D states, "An applicant may not commence work or training until the supervising chiropractor receives an authorization letter from the Board."
4. Respondent admits she did not submit a "Request to Employ" application for Person A to the Board prior to Person A participating in the CA training program.
5. On or about May 18, 2020, the Board adopted regulations, which among other things, required chiropractors to first be registered with the Board before performing dry needling. See COMAR 10.43.16.01 *et seq.* The Respondent, who had been performing dry needling prior to the Board's adoption of the above-referenced regulations, continued her dry-

needling practice after the regulations passed until approximately May 2024 without first becoming registered with the Board as required by COMAR 10.44.16.05. As of the effective date of this Order, however, the Respondent has registered with the Board to perform dry needling.

6. The Board finds that the Respondent supervised an unauthorized individual in the practice of chiropractic and practiced dry needling without having first registered with the Board both in violation of HO § 3-313(19). The Board notes that, while the Board's sanctioning guidelines provide for a minimum sanction of a reprimand in this case, the Respondent has had an otherwise unblemished record with the Board prior to this incident and has been fully cooperative with the Board during its investigation. Further, the Respondent self-reported her failure to register with the Board prior to performing dry needling. As such, the Board finds it appropriate to go below the applicable sanctioning guidelines and order a \$1000 fine.

II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes that the Respondent violated Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 3-313(19) ("Violates any rule or regulation adopted by the Board"), specifically:

COMAR 10.43.07.02.D ("An applicant may not commence work or training until the supervising chiropractor receives an authorization letter from the Board"); and

COMAR 10.44.16.05.B ("A chiropractor with physical therapy privileges may not perform dry needling without registering with the Board").

III. ORDER

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is hereby:

ORDERED that, no later than **NINETY (90) DAYS** of the effective date of this Order, the Respondent shall pay to the Board a monetary fine of **ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND**

ZERO CENTS (\$1000.00) in full by money order or cashier's check made payable to the Board and delivered personally or by certified mail to the Board within **NINETY (90) DAYS** of the effective date of this Order. Failure to pay this monetary fine in full to the Board within **NINETY (90) DAYS** of the effective date of this Order shall constitute a violation of this Order; and it is further;

ORDERED that if the Respondent violates any of the terms and conditions of this Order, the Board, in its discretion, after notice and an opportunity for an evidentiary hearing before the Board, if there is a genuine dispute as to the material fact(s), or an opportunity for a show cause hearing before the Board, may impose any other disciplinary sanction which the Board may have imposed in this case under H.O. § 3-313 including probation, suspension, revocation, and/or additional monetary fine, said violation being proven by a preponderance of the evidence; and it is further;

ORDERED that the Respondent is responsible for any costs associated with the compliance of this Order; and it is further;

ORDERED that this document is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** under Md. Code Ann., General Provisions §§ 4-101 et seq.


07/11/2024
Date

Sharon Oliver
Sharon J. Oliver, MBA
Executive Director
Maryland State Board of Chiropractic Examiners

CONSENT

By this Consent, I acknowledge that I have read this Consent Order in its entirety, and I hereby admit the truth of the Findings of Fact and accept and submit to the foregoing Consent Order and its conditions. I acknowledge the validity of this Consent Order as if entered into after the conclusion of a formal evidentiary hearing in which I would have had the right to legal counsel authorized to practice law in Maryland, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to request subpoenas for witnesses, to call witnesses on my own behalf, to introduce testimony and evidence on my own behalf, and to all other substantive and procedural protections provided by law. I waive these rights, as well as any appeal rights under Maryland Code Annotated, State Government Article § 10-222.

I sign this Consent Order after having an opportunity to consult with an attorney, voluntarily and without reservation, and I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning, terms, and effect of this Consent Order.


Dr. Debra Block
License Number S02149

NOTARIZATION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 30 day of June, 2024,
before me, Notary Public of the State and City/County aforesaid, _____ personally
appeared ~~on behalf of Debra Block.~~, and made oath in due form of law that signing the foregoing
Consent Order was the voluntary act and deed of Debra Block ~~on behalf of Debra~~
~~Block.~~

AS WITNESSETH my hand and notarial seal.

SEAL



JEREMY D. RACHLIN
Notary Public, State of Maryland
County of Montgomery
My Commission Expires December 23, 2027



Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 12/23/2027

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