

IN THE MATTER OF * BEFORE THE MARYLAND
HASANI LORI ADAMS, LMT * STATE BOARD OF MASSAGE
Respondent * THERAPY EXAMINERS
License Number: M05761 * Case Number: 21-21M

* * * * *

**ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION
OF LICENSE TO PRACTICE MASSAGE THERAPY**

The Maryland State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners (the “Board”) hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDS** the license of **HASANI LORI ADAMS** (the “Respondent”), License Number **M05761**, to practice massage therapy in the State of Maryland.

The Board takes such action pursuant to its authority under Md. Code Ann., State Gov’t § 10-226(c) (2021 Repl. Vol.), concluding that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action.

INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS

Based on information received by, and made known to the Board, and the investigatory information obtained by, received by, and made known to and available to the Board, including the instances described below, the Board has reason to believe that the following facts are true:¹

¹ The statements regarding the Board’s investigative findings are intended to provide the Respondent with notice of the basis of the suspension. They are not intended as, and do not necessarily represent, a complete description of the evidence, either documentary or testimonial, to be offered against the Respondent in connection with this matter.

I. BACKGROUND

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was and is licensed to practice massage therapy in the State of Maryland. The Respondent was originally licensed to practice massage therapy in Maryland on March 13, 2017, under License Number M05761. The Respondent's license is currently active and scheduled to expire on October 31, 2022.

2. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was a solo practitioner located in Baltimore City, Maryland.

3. On or about August 3, 2021, the Respondent applied to provide massage therapy services during the run of a regional festival (the "Festival"). The owner-operator (the "Owner") of the wellness booth (the "Booth") at the Festival, hired the Respondent to provide massage services on 16 of the 19 total days of the Festival.

4. On or about September 28, 2021, the Board received an email from a detective (the "Detective") with the Anne Arundel County Police Department. The email explained that "there was an incident with a massage therapist inappropriately touching a client. I have investigated the incident and have criminally charged the massage therapist[.]"

5. On receipt of the information, the Board initiated an investigation into the allegation.

II. BOARD INVESTIGATION

6. On or about September 28, 2021, the Board obtained a copy of the Anne Arundel County Police Department's Incident Report regarding the Respondent's alleged conduct. The Incident Report stated the following:

On 9/22/2021 at approximately 1723 hrs, [Detective] conducted a recorded interview with [Victim] and [Partner] at Western District Police Station.

[Victim] advised on 9/12/21 she was at the [Festival] . . . with her partner, [Partner]. [Victim] advised at 1415 hrs, they went to [Booth] within the festival to get a neck and back massage. [Victim] advised that [Partner] had her massage first and had a different massage therapist than her. They advised that there were approximately 3-5 massage therapists working at the time and [Victim's] therapist was the only male[.]

[Victim] advised she was taken up to a 2nd story room by the male therapist where he told her to take off her shirt, bra, and jewelry. She advised the male left the room and she did as he asked and then laid face down on the massage table. [Victim] advised the male therapist returned to the room and started massaging her back and neck. **[Victim] advised the male therapist then pulled down her pants exposing her entire buttocks and began massaging her buttocks.** [Victim] advised the therapist then asked her to turn over so she pulled her pants back up, turned over, and grabbed a small cloth that was next to the table to cover up her breasts as she laid on her back. [Victim] advised the male therapist then started massaging her shoulders, arms, and stomach. **[Victim] advised the male then pulled her pants down a little bit and began massaging her pelvis and leg area. [Victim] advised the male therapist made contact with her vagina and she placed her hand on top of his and told him to stop. [Victim] advised the male had his mask pulled down and when she told him to stop, he smiled and started massaging her neck again.** [Victim] advised she pulled her pants back up and he began massaging her torso area. **[Victim] advised the male therapist then massaged her right breast.** [Victim] advised the time for the session was over and the male told her she could take her time getting dressed and then left the room. [Victim] advised she got dressed, left, and told [Partner] what happened who then went to speak to the [Owner]. **[Victim] added that a lot of the time the massage therapist was massaging her with one hand and was unsure what he was doing with the other hand but believed she heard a sound like he had taken a picture[.]**

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On 9/21/2021, [Detective] spoke with [Owner] via telephone in reference to this incident. [Owner] advised she is the owner of [the Booth] at the [Festival]. **[Owner] advised there were 2 complaints on 9/12/21 against Hasani Lori Adams for inappropriate touching.** [Owner] advised Hasani Adams was the only male therapist working on 9/12/21 and was the massage therapist for both complainants. [Owner] advised she fired Hasani Adams and had him escorted off the property after the second complaint on 9/12/21[.] (Emphasis added)

7. According to court records:

- a) (Case D-07-CR-21-008540) On or about September 27, 2021, in the District Court for Anne Arundel County, Maryland, the Respondent was charged with one count of Assault-Second Degree (misdemeanor) and Sexual Offense in the 4th Degree – Sexual Contact (misdemeanor). The case is currently pending.
- b) (Case D-07-CR-21-008640) On or about October 7, 2021, in the District Court for Anne Arundel County, Maryland, the Respondent was charged with one count of Assault-Second Degree (misdemeanor) and Sexual Offense in the 4th Degree – Sexual Contact (misdemeanor). The case is currently pending.

8. On or about October 21, 2021, the Board received copies of the Respondent's personnel records and client file from his time at the Booth. From those records, the Board was able to identify the second victim ("Victim 2").

9. On or about November 18, 2021, the Board's investigator interviewed Victim 2 under oath. During the interview, Victim 2 described how the Respondent touched her breasts several times during her massage on September 12, 2021. Victim 2 added that she has had massages at other locations and had even started coursework in massage at a local college, so she knew that what occurred during her visit with the Respondent was not appropriate. Victim 2 reported the inappropriate touching to the Owner before she left the Festival.

10. Based on the above investigative facts, the Respondent presents a substantial likelihood of a risk of serious harm to the public health, safety, or welfare. Two victims have reported that the Respondent inappropriately touched them during a scheduled massage he provided while working in his capacity as a licensed massage therapist. The Respondent is currently facing misdemeanor criminal charges in connection with the victims' massages.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based upon the foregoing Investigative Findings, the Board concludes as a matter of law that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-226(c)(2) (2021 Repl. Vol.).

ORDER

It is, by a majority of the quorum of the Maryland State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners, hereby:

ORDERED that pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-226(c)(2), the Respondent's license to practice massage therapy in the State of Maryland is hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDED**; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent has the opportunity to appear before the Board for a post-deprivation show cause hearing for a determination of whether the Summary Suspension should be continued. A request for a post-deprivation show cause hearing must be made in writing to the Board and be made **WITHIN THIRTY (30) CALENDAR DAYS** of the date of this Order; and it is further

ORDERED that if the Respondent fails to request a post-deprivation show cause hearing in writing in a timely manner, or if the Respondent requests a post-deprivation show cause hearing but fails to appear before the Board when the hearing is scheduled, the Respondent's LMT license shall remain **SUSPENDED**; and it is further

ORDERED that upon presentation of this Order, the Respondent **SHALL SURRENDER** to the Board his original LMT license, wallet card, and any other official indicia of licensure; and it is further

ORDERED that this is an Order of the Board, and as such, is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen Prov. §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2019 Repl. Vol. and 2021 Supp.).

01/24/2022

Date



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