

IN THE MATTER OF * BEFORE THE STATE
HABTAMU K. GEBRESELASSIE * BOARD OF MASAGE
RESPONDENT * THERAPY EXAMINERS
REGISTRATION NO.: R02677 * CASE NO: 17-41M

* * * * *

ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION

Pursuant to Md. State Govt. II Code Ann. §10-226 (c)(2) (2014 Repl. Vol.), the State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners (the "Board") hereby summarily suspends the registration of **HABTAMU K. GEBRESELASSIE**, Registration Number: R02677 ("the Respondent"), to practice massage therapy, under the Maryland Massage Therapy Act (the "Act"), Md. Health Occ. II Code Ann. ("H. O.") §§6-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol.). This Order is based on the following investigative findings, which the Board has reason to believe are true:¹

INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was registered to practice massage therapy in the State of Maryland.
2. The Respondent was originally registered to practice massage therapy in Maryland on or about May 17, 2017.
3. The Respondent's registration expires on May 31, 2018.

¹ The statements regarding the Respondent's conduct are only intended to provide the Respondent with notice of the basis for the Board's action. 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 this matter.

4. At all times relevant hereto, Respondent worked as a massage therapist at a massage therapy practice, ("Establishment A")², located in the District of Columbia.

5. Establishment A is a national chain that provides massage therapy and skin care to clients.

6. An investigation by the Board revealed that on or about October 4, 2017, the Department of Health Regulation Licensing Administration for the District of Columbia ("HRLA") summarily suspended the Respondent's license to practice massage therapy for sexually assaulting two women, in the District of Columbia between August 2017 and September 2017.

7. The Board's investigation also revealed that the Respondent during 2017, the Respondent also worked as a massage therapist in Establishment A locations in Maryland.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing investigative findings, the Board concludes that the public health, safety, and welfare imperatively require emergency action in this case, pursuant to Md. State Gov't. II Code Ann. § 10-226(c) (2).

ORDER

²Establishment A is not identified in this document for privacy reasons, but this information will be provided to the Respondent upon request.

Based on the foregoing Investigative Findings and Conclusions of Law, it is this 2 day of November 2017, by a majority of the full authorized membership of the Board, hereby:

ORDERED that the Respondent's registration to practice massage therapy in the State of Maryland under registration number: R02677 is hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDED**; and it is further

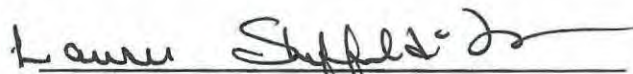
ORDERED that the Respondent is prohibited from practicing massage therapy in the State of Maryland; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent shall immediately return all massage therapy registrations to the Board; and it is further

ORDERED that this **ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION** is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** as defined in Md. General Provisions Code Ann. §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2014).

11-2-17

Date



Laurie Sheffield-James
Executive Director by direction of the
Maryland Board of Massage Therapy
Examiners