

IN AND BEFORE THE OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL LICENSURE AND SUPERVISION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, *ex rel.*)
OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD)
OF MEDICAL LICENSURE)
AND SUPERVISION,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.)
)
ALETHEA FARRIS, OT,)
LICENSE 1731)
)
Defendant.)

FILED

OCT 18 2022

OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD OF
MEDICAL LICENSURE & SUPERVISION

Case No. ~~20-11-5945~~

21-07-6027
(pgp)

ORDER REVOKING LICENSE

This matter came on for hearing before the Oklahoma State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision ("Board") on June 23, 2022, at the office of the Board, 101 N.E. 51st Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105, pursuant to notice given as required by law and the rules of the Board.

Joseph L. Ashbaker, Assistant Attorney General, appeared for Plaintiff. Defendant, Alethea Farris, OT, appeared not nor was she represented by counsel.

AAG Ashbaker made an offer of proof as to the evidence and State Exhibits 1, 2, 3 and 5 were admitted into evidence. Larry Rhodes, Board Investigator, was sworn and testified on behalf of the State. The Board, having heard testimony, offer of proof, argument of counsel and being fully apprised of the premises finds by clear and convincing evidence as follows:

JURISDICTION

1. The Board has jurisdiction over the subject matter and is a duly authorized agency of the State of Oklahoma empowered to license and oversee the activities of Occupational Therapists in the State of Oklahoma. 59 O.S. §888.1, *et seq.* and Okla. Admin. Code 435:30-1-1 *et seq.*

FINDINGS OF FACT

2. Defendant's Occupational Therapy License No. 1731 expired in October of 2019 after Defendant failed to timely renew.
3. Defendant continued to hold herself out as an Occupational Therapist to the public without a license.

Exhibit 1

4. Defendant solicited Occupational Therapy patients for her practice without a license.
5. Defendant practiced Occupational Therapy on patients without a license.
6. Defendant failed to cooperate with Board investigators during this investigation.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Board further finds that Defendant, Alethea Farris, OT, was properly served and appeared not and is therefore in default. 75 O.S. § 309; OAC 435.
2. The Board finds that Defendant, Alethea Farris, OT, is guilty of unprofessional conduct as follows:
 - a. Engaging in unprofessional conduct as defined by the rules established by the Board, in violation of 59 O.S. § 888.9(A)(2).
 - b. Violating any lawful order, rule, or regulation rendered or adopted by the Board, in violation of 59 O.S. § 888.9(A)(4).
 - c. Violating any provisions of the Occupational Therapy Practice Act, in violation of 59 O.S. § 888.9(A)(5).
 - d. Representing oneself as an occupational therapist while unlicensed, in violation of 59 O.S. § 888.15(A).
 - e. Failure to cooperate in a lawful investigation conducted by the Board, in violation of OAC 435:10-7-4(38).
 - f. Violation of the rules and regulations of the Board, in violation of OAC 435:10-7-4(39).

ORDERS

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Oklahoma State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision as follows:

1. Defendant, Alethea Farris, OT's license is **REVOKED**. If Defendant ever wishes to reinstate her license, she will undergo a comprehensive mental assessment by a Board provider, approved of in advance by the Board Secretary, prior to appearing before the Board.

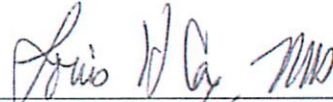
2. Promptly upon receipt of an invoice, Defendant shall pay all costs of this action authorized by law, including without limitation, legal fees, investigation costs, staff time, salary and travel expenses, witness fees and attorney's fees.
3. A copy of this Order shall be provided to Defendant as soon as it is processed.

This Order is subject to review and approval by the Oklahoma Attorney General, and this Order shall become final upon completion of the review by the Oklahoma Attorney General unless disapproved, in which case this Order shall be null and void.

Dated this 18th day of October, 2022.



Billy H. Stout, M.D., Board Secretary
OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL
LICENSURE AND SUPERVISION



Louis Cox, M.D., President
OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL
LICENSURE AND SUPERVISION

Certificate of Service

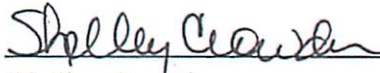
This is to certify that on the 19th day of October, 2022, the foregoing instrument was transmitted as indicated, postage prepaid, to the following:

U.S. Certified Mail

Alethea Farris, OT
1624 E. 15th Ave.
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74120
Defendant

E-Mail

Joseph L. Ashbaker, AAG
STATE OF OK, OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
313 N.E. 21st Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105
(405) 522-3921
*Attorney for Plaintiff,
Oklahoma State Board of Medical
Licensure and Supervision*



Shelley Crowder



JOHN M. O'CONNOR
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FILED

SEP - 8 2022

OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD OF
MEDICAL LICENSURE & SUPERVISION

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION
2022-29A

Billy H. Stout, M.D., Board Secretary
State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision
101 N.E. 51st Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-1821

September 6, 2022


Dear Dr. Stout:


This office has received your request for a written Attorney General Opinion regarding action that the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision ("Board") intends to take with respect to Case No. 20-11-5945.

The Occupational Therapy Practice Act ("Act") authorizes the Board to discipline an Occupational Therapist ("OT") guilty of practicing occupational therapy without a license, unprofessional conduct¹ or failure to cooperate with a Board investigation. 59 O.S.2021, §§ 888.9(A), 888.15; OAC 435:10-7-4(38).

The Defendant's OT license expired in October 2019. Despite it expiring, Defendant continued to practice occupational therapy and hold herself out as an OT without a valid license. Even more, Defendant has refused to cooperate with the Board's investigation. The Board proposes to revoke Defendant's license. Prior to reinstatement, Defendant must undergo a comprehensive mental assessment by a Board provider approved by the Board Secretary. Defendant must also appear in front of the Medical Board. Additionally, the Board assessed the Defendant with all legal fees, investigatory costs, staff time, salary and travel, expenses, witness fees and attorney's fees applicable to the investigation and prosecution of her case. The Board may reasonably believe the proposed action is necessary to deter future violations.

It is, therefore, the official opinion of the Attorney General that the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision has adequate support for the conclusion that this board action advances the State's policy of protecting the health, safety, and well-being of the citizens of Oklahoma.


JOHN M. O'CONNOR
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF OKLAHOMA


THOMAS R. SCHNEIDER
DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL

¹ "Unprofessional conduct" is defined as engaging in unprofessional conduct as defined by the Board rules or Code of Ethics, violating any lawful order, rule, or regulation of the Board or violating any provisions of the Act. 59 O.S.2021, § 889.9(A)(2), (4), (5).