WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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STATE OF WISCONSIN BEFORE THE MASSAGE THERAPY AND BODYWORK THERAPY AFFILIATED CREDENTIALING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY

PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

LIHONG CHEN, RESPONDENT.

0004034 - *

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 14 MAB 007

The parties to this action for the purpose of Wis. Stat. § 227.53 are:

Lihong Chen 7682 Blueberry Hill Lane Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Wisconsin Massage Therapy and Bodywork Therapy Affiliated Credentialing Board P.O. Box 8366
Madison, WI 53708-8366

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Department of Safety and Professional Services P.O. Box 7190 Madison, WI 53707-7190

The parties in this matter agree to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final disposition of this matter, subject to the approval of the Massage Therapy and Bodywork Therapy Affiliated Credentialing Board (Board). The Board has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

Accordingly, the Board in this matter adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Respondent Lihong Chen, (dob September 29, 1970), is licensed in the state of Wisconsin to practice message therapy or bodywork therapy, having license number 12677-146, first issued on October 28, 2013, with registration current through February 28, 2015.
- 2. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is 7682 Blueberry Hill Lane, Ellicott City, Maryland 21043.

Final Decision and Order In the matter of disciplinary proceedings against Lihong Chen, 14 MAB 007

- 3. On September 3, 2013, Respondent submitted to the Department an application for licensure to practice massage therapy and bodywork therapy in the state of Wisconsin, pursuant to which she made the following representations:
 - a. that she had graduated from Georgia Academy of Massage, LLC (GAM) on July 8, 2011;
 - b. that at the time of her graduation, GAM was an accredited educational program, and
 - c. that as of May 28, 2013, she met the eligibility requirements to take the Massage & Bodywork Licensing Examination (MBLEx), and that she had taken the exam and received a valid passing score.
- 4. On July 11, 2011, GAM was not a school of massage therapy or bodywork approved by the educational approval board.
- 5. On November 03, 2014, the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB) informed the Department that an audit conducted by that organization invalidated Respondent's MBLEx score. At the time Respondent sat for the MBLEx, Respondent did not have the required education necessary to take the examination.
- 6. Respondent does not meet the education requirements for licensure set forth in Wis. Stats. § 460.05(1)(e)1 and Wis. Admin. Code § MTBT 2.01(3)(a) because she did not graduate from an accredited educational program.
- 7. Respondent does not to meet the examination requirements for licensure set forth in Wis. Stats. §460.06 and Wis. Admin. Code § MTBT 2.01(3)(g) because she has not achieved a valid passing MBLEx score.
- 8. Respondent denies knowing that she did not have the required education and further denies knowing that she was not eligible to take the MBLEx,
- 9. Respondent has no intention of practicing massage therapy or bodywork therapy in Wisconsin and wishes to voluntarily surrender her Wisconsin credential and the right to renew same. Accordingly, Respondent consents to the entry of the following Conclusions of Law and Order.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Wisconsin Massage Therapy and Bodywork Therapy Affiliated Credentialing Board has jurisdiction to act in this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 460.02, and is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).

<u>ORDER</u>

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

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- 2. The Board accepts the VOLUNTARY SURRENDER of Lihong Chen's Wisconsin credential to practice massage therapy and bodywork therapy (no. 12677-146) and the right to renew that credential, effective the date of this Order.
- 3. Lihong Chen may re-apply for Wisconsin licensure to practice massage therapy and bodywork therapy in the future. Whether to grant a license and whether to impose any limitations or restrictions on any license granted shall be in the discretion of the Wisconsin Massage Therapy and Bodywork Therapy Affiliated Credentialing Board, and shall require Lihong Chen to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board that she meets all legal requirements for licensure. Alternatively, the Board may enter an order denying such application without further notice or hearing.
- 4. In the event Respondent seeks re-licensure in Wisconsin, prior to any such petition, Lihong Chen shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$851.25.
 - 5. This Order is effective on the date of its signing.

WISCONSIN MASSAGE THERAPY AND BODYWORK THERAPY AFFILIATED CREDENTIALING BOARD

hv

X Member of the Board

Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE MASSAGE THERAPY AND BODYWORK THERAPY AFFILIATED
CREDENTIALING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY

PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

STIPULATION

LIHONG CHEN,

RESPONDENT.

0004034

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 14 MAB 007

Respondent Libong Chen, and the Division of Legal Services and Compliance, Department of Safety and Professional Services stipulate as follows:

- 1. This Stipulation is entered into as a result of a pending investigation by the Division of Legal Services and Compliance. Respondent consents to the resolution of this investigation by Stipulation.
- 2. Respondent understands that by signing this Stipulation, Respondent voluntarily and knowingly waives the following rights:
 - the right to a hearing on the allegations against Respondent, at which time the State has the burden of proving those allegations by a preponderance of the evidence;
 - the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against Respondent;
 - the right to call witnesses on Respondent's behalf and to compel their attendance by subpoena;
 - the right to testify on Respondent's own behalf;
 - the right to file objections to any proposed decision and to present briefs or oral arguments to the officials who are to render the final decision;
 - the right to petition for rehearing; and
 - all other applicable rights afforded to Respondent under the United States Constitution, the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin Statutes, the Wisconsin Administrative Code, and other provisions of state or federal law.
- 3. Respondent is aware of Respondent's right to seek legal representation and has been provided an opportunity to obtain legal counsel before signing this Stipulation.
- 4. Respondent agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by the Wisconsin Massage Therapy and Bodywork Therapy Affiliated Credentialing Board (Board). The parties to the Stipulation consent to the entry of the attached Final Decision and Order without further notice, pleading, appearance or consent of the parties. Respondent waives all rights to any appeal of the Board's order if adopted in the form attached.

- 5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Board, the parties shall not be bound by the contents of this Stipulation, and the matter shall then be returned to the Division of Legal Services and Compliance for further proceedings. In the event that the Stipulation is not accepted by the Board, the parties agree not to contend that the Board has been prejudiced or biased in any manner by the consideration of this attempted resolution.
- 6. The parties to this Stipulation agree that the attorney or other agent for the Division of Legal Services and Compliance and any member of the Board ever assigned as an advisor in this investigation may appear before the Board in open or closed session, without the presence of Respondent, for purposes of speaking in support of this agreement and answering questions that any member of the Board may have in connection with deliberations on the Stipulation. Additionally, any such advisor may vote on whether the Board should accept this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.
- 7. Respondent is informed that should the Board adopt this Stipulation, the Board's Final Decision and Order is a public record and will be published in accordance with standard Department procedure.
- 8. The Division of Legal Services and Compliance joins Respondent in recommending the Board adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.

Lihong Chen, Respondent

7682 Blueberry Hill Lane

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

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License No. 12677-146

Yolarida Y. McGowan, Attorney

Division of Legal Services and Compliance

P.O. Box 7190

Madison, WI 53707-7190