

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

HEATHER L. LIACOPOULOS, P.T.,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
: FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
:

0005416

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 16 PHT 040

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

Heather L. Liacopoulos, P.T.
2555 Whipple Tree Lane
Brookfield, WI 53045

Wisconsin Medical Examining 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 Physical Therapy Examining 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 Heather L. Liacopoulos, P.T., (DOB April 8, 1975), is licensed in the state of Wisconsin to practice as a physical therapist, having license number 6194-24, first issued on February 26, 1999, and current through February 28, 2019. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is 2555 Whipple Tree Lane, Brookfield, Wisconsin 53045.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a registered physical therapist providing therapy services to patients at a health care facility (Facility) located in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

3. On April 28, 2016, Respondent submitted billing records indicating she treated eight (8) patients for a combined total of approximately 300 minutes.

4. Respondent failed to complete daily charting documenting that physical therapy services were rendered to any of the eight patients.

5. On May 3, 2016, a compliance investigation into Respondent's billing was initiated by the Facility based upon suspected billing fraud.

6. The Facility's investigation was substantiated and on May 4, 2016, Respondent was terminated from the Facility for standards of conduct violation.

7. The Facility reversed all physical therapy services billed for the services which Respondent purportedly rendered to the eight patients.

8. In resolution of this matter, Respondent consents to the entry of the following Conclusions of Law and Order.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Physical Therapy Examining Board has jurisdiction to act in this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 448.57, and is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).

2. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent Heather L. Liacopoulos, P.T., engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § PT 7.025(8) by having any practice or conduct that falls below the standard of minimal competence within the profession that results in unacceptable risk of harm to the patient, regardless of whether injury results.

3. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent Heather L. Liacopoulos, P.T., engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § PT 7.025(17)(a) by fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation in obtaining or attempting to obtain any fee or third-party reimbursement.

4. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent Heather L. Liacopoulos, P.T., engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § PT 7.025(21) by failing to establish and maintain accurate and timely patient health care records as required by law and professional standards. Patient health care records are presumed to be untimely if not completed and signed within 60 days of the date of service.

5. As a result of the above conduct, Heather L. Liacopoulos, P.T., is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 448.57(2).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. Respondent Heather L. Liacopoulos, P.T., is REPRIMANDED.
3. The physical therapy license issued to Heather L. Liacopoulos, P.T., (license number 6194-24) is LIMITED as follows:
 - a. Within nine (9) months of the date of this Order, Respondent shall successfully complete five (5) hours of education on the topics of professional ethics and billing.
 - b. Respondent shall be responsible for obtaining the course(s) required under this Order, for providing adequate course descriptions to the Department Monitor, and for obtaining pre-approval of the course(s) from the Wisconsin Physical Therapy Examining Board, or its designee, prior to commencement of the course(s). The following courses are pre-approved and require no other authorization or approval to complete:
 - *Navigating the Regulatory Environment: Ensuring Compliance While Promoting Professional Integrity* offered by Center for Integrity in Practice – American Physical Therapy Association; and
 - *Defensible Documentation – Practical Tools to Ensure Compliance, Minimize Risk, and Maximize Payment* offered by Center for Integrity in Practice – American Physical Therapy Association
 - c. The Board or its designee may reject any course and may accept a course for less than the number of hours for which Respondent seeks approval.
 - d. Within thirty (30) days of completion of each educational component, Respondent shall submit proof of successful completion of the ordered education in the form of verification from the institution providing the education to the Department Monitor at the address stated below.
 - e. Respondent is responsible for all costs associated with compliance with this educational requirement.
 - f. None of the education completed pursuant to this requirement may be used to satisfy any other continuing education requirements that have been or may be instituted by the Board or Department.
4. Within 90 days from the date of this Order, Heather L. Liacopoulos, P.T., shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$982.00.
5. Proof of successful course completion and payment of costs (made payable to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services) shall be sent by Respondent to the Department Monitor at the address below:

Department Monitor
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Department of Safety and Professional Services
P.O. Box 7190, Madison, WI 53707-7190
Telephone (608) 267-3817; Fax (608) 266-2264
DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov

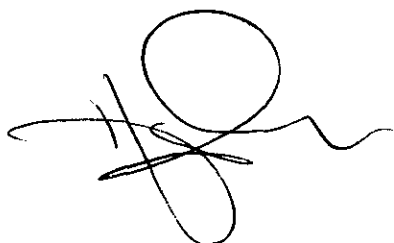
6. In the event Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's license (no. 6194-24), or Respondent's right to renew her license, may, in the discretion of the Board or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with the terms of the Order. The Board may, in addition and/or in the alternative refer any violation of this Order to the Division of Legal Services and Compliance for further investigation and action.

7. This Order is effective on the date of its signing.

WISCONSIN PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINING BOARD

by: Shari Berry
A Member of the Board

9-6-2017
Date

 07/10/17

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

HEATHER L. LIACOPOULOS, P.T.,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
:
:
:

STIPULATION

0005416

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 16 PHT 040

Respondent Heather L. Liacopoulos, P.T., 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 Physical Therapy Examining 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 as 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.

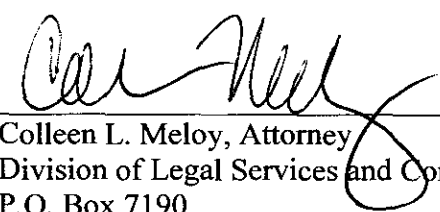
8. The Division of Legal Services and Compliance joins Respondent in recommending the Board adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.



Heather E. Liacopoulos, P.T., Respondent
2555 Whipple Tree Lane
Brookfield, WI 53045
License no. 6194-24

07/10/17

Date



Colleen L. Meloy, Attorney
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
P.O. Box 7190
Madison, WI 53707-7190

7/12/17

Date