LOUISIANA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY

IN THE MATTER OF

SHEMICYA SINGLETON

LICENSE NO. 8319

ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION

Pursuant to La. R.S. 49:977.3(C), the Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy ("LBMT") summarily suspends License number 8319 issued to Shemicya Singleton ("Ms. Singleton") pending an administrative hearing scheduled for January 29, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

This Order of Summary Suspension is effective as of December 18, 2023. Upon execution of this Order, Ms. Singleton is not authorized to engage in the practice of massage therapy and must immediately cease and desist from the practice of massage therapy, as defined by La. R.S. 37:3552. Further, Ms. Singleton must cease and desist from referring to herself as a licensed massage therapist.

I. <u>INITIAL FINDINGS</u>

To protect public health, safety, and welfare, emergency action is required due to the nature of the allegations against Ms. Singleton.

On December 10, 2023, the LBMT received a complaint by an online submission through the LBMT website. The complaint alleged that Ms. Singleton was involved in soliciting for prostitution, offered "happy endings" and nude massages. Ms. Trahan provided internet links to multiple Facebook pages with posts and to her Instagram page.

A Facebook page for "Meekie Souly" contained posts stating, "I have openings dm to book for an appointment reservation for a therapeutic body massage and happy ending to ease off

¹ www.facebook.com/soulymeekie

the weeks stress," "Full body massage happy ending massage and erotic massage available...," and "It's freaky Friday DM to book an appointment." Reels from Meekie Souly contained messages stating, "You haven't had a nuru massage until you've had it from #TheSensualMassageGirl" and "Happy ending & Full body massage." The posts and reels contained pictures of Ms. Singleton and sexually suggestive pictures.

The Facebook page for Ms. Singleton contained posts with sexually suggestive pictures with messages stating, "I'm available for midnight shift," "Full body massage," "DM to book your appointment I have openings today," and "When you <water drops emoji> too quick. Not my clients saying they can handle in the VIP sessions <three laughing faces emoji>.

On Ms. Singleton's Instagram page² were similar posts that provided as follows: "Fully body massage Happy ending massage And Erotic Massage available...," "I'm available for the midnight shift," "full body massage," "Dm to complete your pending appointment," "CASH ONLY AS FINAL PAYMENT," "I'm a massage therapist..!! Dm me to book all kinds of massage," "Happy ending massage available," and "I'm not a police." Ms. Singleton's Instagram page indicates that she travels to her client's home to provide massage therapy services.

Based on the foregoing, it is alleged that Ms. Singleton violated the following rules and regulations applicable to the LBMT:

Code of Conduct for Massage Therapists, La. Admin Code. tit. 46, Pt XLIV, §3101, et seq.:

§3101 Prohibitions of Sexual Activity

- A. All sexual activity by any person or persons in any massage establishment is absolutely prohibited.
- B. No massage establishment owner or operator shall engage in, or permit any person or persons to engage in, sexual activity in a massage establishment

² www.instagram.com/shermicya singleton

or to use that establishment to make arrangements to engage in sexual activity in any other place.

C. No massage therapist shall engage in sexual activity with a current client of the therapist.

- E. As used in this Rule and §5301 of this Part:
 - a. sexual activity—includes:
 - i. coital sexual intercourse;
 - ii. anal sexual intercourse;
 - iii. fellatio, cunnilingus;
 - iv. masturbation;
 - b. the purposeful touching of the genitals of another person...whether through draping or clothing, whether resulting in penetration or orgasm or not, and whether by instrumental manipulation, touching with the hands, or other bodily contact;
 - c. any sexual offenses proscribed by the criminal laws of Louisiana including, but not limited to, R.S. 14:83.3 and 83.4.
- F. For purposes of this rule, the term *client* means and includes any person receiving massage therapy services provided for compensation....

La. R.S. 37:3546. Regulation of advertising

- A. A person or an entity that does not hold a license as a massage therapist, physical therapist, or chiropractor, a certificate to practice athletic training, or a license as a massage establishment shall not use the words "massage", "body work", or any derivative or variation of the word "massage", including specific bodywork or massage modalities, on any sign or other form of advertising. Any advertisement by a massage therapist or a massage establishment shall contain the license number of such therapist or establishment. Building signs with promotional material shall also include the professional or establishment number.
- B. No sexually oriented business, as defined in R.S. 37:3558(C), shall use the word "massage", "body work", or any derivative or variation of the word "massage", including specific bodywork or massage modalities, on any sign or other form of advertising.
- C. In all pictorial representations for any advertisement representing massage therapy, including such representations through video, all persons representing massage therapists shall be attired and posed in a manner as to avoid appealing to the

prurient interest. Persons representing clients shall be appropriately draped and posed.

La. R.S. 37:3563 Grounds for Discipline

A. The board may suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue or renew a license after notice and opportunity for hearing pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act, upon proof of any of the following:

Engaging in unprofessional conduct that has endangered or that is likely to endanger the health, welfare, or safety of the public, as further defined by rules of the board.

Violating or aiding and abetting in the violation of any provisions of this Chapter or the rules and regulations promulgated hereunder....

II. DECISION AND ORDER

To maintain public health, safety, and welfare, emergency action is required due to the allegations set forth in the allegations in the complaint against Ms. Singleton. Accordingly, LBMT License number 8319 issued to Shemicya Singleton is SUSPENDED, effective immediately, pending proceedings for revocation of licensure or other action as the Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy deems fit.

Proceedings before the Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy shall be promptly instituted and determined. Accordingly, an administrative hearing before the Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy is scheduled for January 29, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., at the at the Jones Creek Library, 6222 Jones Creek Road, Meeting Room 2, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70817. The hearing panel will consist of current Board Members. The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, the Louisiana Massage Therapists and Establishments Act, and the rules promulgated by the LBMT.

Shemicya Singleton will be given a full opportunity to appear and be heard, with or without counsel, and is entitled to hear a statement of what accusations have been made against her, to present evidence, to cross-examine witnesses, and to have witnesses subpoenaed. Ms. Singleton may request that subpoenas be issued by the Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy and must send a request to the Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy office at least 10 days prior to the hearing, listing the names and addresses of the individuals to be subpoenaed, along with a brief summary as to what the individual will testify. The testimony will be under oath and a court reporter will record the proceedings at the hearing, and any party wishing to obtain a transcript of the hearing may do so at her expense.

Date: 12-18-23

Complaint Investigation Officer

Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy