

**LOUISIANA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**LIFEN HOU**

**LICENSE NO. 9801, EXPIRED**

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**CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER**

**WHEREAS**, LIFEN HOU (“MS. HOU”) is a licensed massage therapist in the State of Louisiana and holds license number 9801 with the Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy (“LBMT” or “Board”), and is subject to the jurisdiction and rules and regulations of the LBMT;

**WHEREAS**, the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards, a non-profit corporation comprised of massage therapy licensing boards and agencies in the United States (“FSMTB”), administers a national massage and bodywork licensing examination (“MBLEx”);

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to La. R.S. 37:3556, La. R.S. 37:3563, and LAC 46:XLIV §1301, in order to qualify for licensure as a massage therapist in the State of Louisiana, applicants must first pass the MBLEx within two years from the date the application is filed;

**WHEREAS**, on May 9, 2023, the Board was notified by the FSMTB that the Florida Board of Massage Therapy rescinded the approval of World of Beauty Academy, which means that the school’s approval is voided back to its initial date of operation. World of Beauty Academy closed on June 20, 2022. As a result of the Florida Board of Massage Therapy’s action, education from the school does not meet the educational requirements for taking the MBLEx or recognition of a past MBLEx result, regardless of the date the education from the school was obtained.

**WHEREAS**, as part of the school’s closure, World of Beauty Academy provided FSMTB with a comprehensive student roster containing the names of all individuals who attended the school while it was in operation. FSMTB compared the list provided by World of Beauty roster

and determined that Ms. Hou was not listed on the roster, although, Ms. Hou had listed World of Beauty as where she obtained her required education. FSMTB stated that Ms. Hou's name not being on the roster from World of Beauty supports a finding of misrepresentation or fraud on her MBLEx application regarding her educational eligibility to sit for the MBLEx.

**WHEREAS**, FSMTB's policy states that inaccuracies, falsification, or misrepresentation of information which calls into question the accuracy of the MBLEx application and eligibility to sit for the MBLEx may be grounds for denial of application, invalidation of an MBLEx result and/or suspension of future access to the MBLEx or other FSMTB programs and services. The FSMTB Board of Directors considered all available information from February 25, 2023, and determined that Ms. Hou did not possess the education to be eligible to take the MBLEx and violated FSMTB policies through inaccuracies and/or misrepresentations of her education on her MBLEx application.

**WHEREAS**, correspondence from FSMTB dated May 9, 2023, states that Ms. Hou's MBLEx result was invalidated, and that she was suspended from access to the MBLEx for a period of twelve (12) months. After the suspension, access to the MBLEx may be granted, provided Ms. Hou meets certain requirements as set forth in the letter from FSMTB.

**WHEREAS**, on December 18, 2023, pursuant to La. R.S. 49:977.3(C), the LBMT, through its Complaint Investigation Officer, Memry Tucker, issued an Order of Summary Suspension, which had the effect of summarily suspending LBMT license number 9801 issued to Ms. Hou, effective December 18, 2023, pending an administrative hearing scheduled for January 29, 2024;

**WHEREAS**, the Order of Summary Suspension notified Ms. Hou of her opportunity to appear and be heard, with or without counsel, and her entitlement to hear a statement of what

accusations have been made against her, to present evidence, to cross-examine witnesses, and to have witnesses subpoenaed;

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Hou, through counsel, expressed her desire to continue and reschedule the hearing of the summary suspension to August 2024, specifically waiving the right to raise the timing of the hearing of the summary suspension as a violation of her due process rights at any future hearing, trial, or appeal of this matter;

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Hou has indicated her desire to resolve this matter through a Consent Agreement and Order provided for in LAC 46:XLIV §5901 and La. R.S. 49:975(D) of the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act;

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Hou has admitted to the following:

1. Ms. Hou is and was at all times pertinent to the facts and matters alleged herein a licensed massage therapist in the State of Louisiana, holding license number 9801 issued by the LBMT.
2. A valid MBLEx score is a requirement for licensure as a massage therapist in the State of Louisiana.
3. Because Ms. Hou did not pass the special administration of the MBLEx, she is not qualified for licensure as a massage therapist in the State of Louisiana as set forth in La. R.S. 37:3556, La. R.S. 37:3563, and LAC 46:XLIV §1301.

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Hou recognizes her right to continue the pending administrative adjudication of the charges outlined in the Order of Summary Suspension, at which time Ms. Hou would be entitled to be represented by legal counsel, to call witnesses, and to present witnesses on her behalf in defense or in mitigation of the charges made, and to a decision thereon by the Board based upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law in accordance with the Louisiana

Administrative Procedure Act. Ms. Hou nonetheless waives her right to continue the pending formal adjudication and, pursuant to La. R.S. 49:975(D), consents to the entry of the Consent Agreement and Order set forth hereinafter. Ms. Hou also acknowledges that she waives any rights to which she may be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, La. R.S. 49:951, *et. seq.*, or which she otherwise may be afforded by any law, to contest her agreement to, or the force and effect of this Consent Agreement and Order, in any Court or other forum.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that in consideration of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by La. R.S. 49:975(D), the Board orders and Ms. Hou accepts the following administrative action, which is a final decision pursuant to La. R.S. 49:977:

1. LBMT expired license number 9801 issued to Ms. Hou is hereby administratively REVOKED. This is an administrative determination and is not disciplinary in nature. Any currently pending applications for licensure filed by Ms. Hou are considered DENIED.
2. In order to reapply for licensure, Ms. Hou must have a qualifying MBLEx score and satisfy all other requirements for licensure in accordance with the law and the rules of the Board.
3. Ms. Hou specifically acknowledges that failure to comply with the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order may result in a denial, revocation, or suspension of any license, certificate, or registration issued by, or applied for, in accordance with LAC 46:XLIV §1701.
4. By agreeing to the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order, Ms. Hou waives all rights to appeal this adjudication.

**Effect of Non-Acceptance of Agreement.** Ms. Hou acknowledges that this Consent Agreement and Order is subject to the approval of the Board. She further acknowledges and agrees that if the Board rejects this Consent Agreement and Order, it will be void, and further proceedings may continue regarding the hearing on the Order of Summary Suspension and/or an Administrative Complaint may be filed relative to the allegations contained herein. If this Consent Agreement and Order is rejected by the Board, it will not constitute a waiver of Ms. Hou's right to continue the pending hearing on the matters alleged in an Administrative Complaint and the admissions contained herein will have no effect. Ms. Hou further agrees that if the Board rejects this Consent Agreement and Order, the members of the Board may decide the matter after a hearing, and their consideration of this Consent Agreement and Order shall not alone be grounds for recusal of any member of the Board, including any claims that the Board is biased against her, that it cannot fairly decide the case, or that it has received *ex parte* communication.

**Address of Board.** All payments ordered and any reports required by this Consent Agreement and Order shall be addressed to Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy, 9619 Interline Ave., Suite B, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809.

**IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED** that this Consent Agreement and Order shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the Board and is a public record of the Board. The terms of this Consent Agreement and Order shall be published and reported in, including but not limited to, the LBMT website.

**THE ADMISSIONS AND FINDINGS CONTAINED HEREIN** are intended solely for the purpose of resolving the case at hand or in connection with other matters before the LBMT involving Ms. Hou.

**THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER** shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the Board and is a matter of public record.

I, **JAMES R. RAINES**, serving as Prosecutor, do hereby acknowledge negotiation and preparation of this Consent Agreement and Order in order to resolve, with prejudice, all matters for which LIFEN HOU could be charged under this investigation, and further certify that this Consent Agreement and Order is consistent with the evidence, adequately addresses the complaint, and represents a true and correct statement of that which could be proven at a hearing of this matter.

DATED: 8/16/24

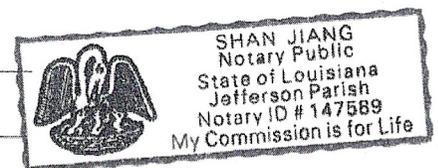
  
James Raines  
Prosecutor

I, **LIFEN HOU**, make these acknowledgements and waivers in support of a final disposition of the pending investigation by Consent Agreement and Order ("Order") pursuant to La. R.S. 49:975(D), rather than proceeding to formal hearing, and accordingly consent to the entirety of the Order set forth hereinbefore and further waive any right to which I may be entitled under the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act or any other law to contest, in any court, my agreement to this Order. By my subscription hereto, I also hereby authorize the Prosecutor to present this Order to the LBMT for its consideration and to disclose to and discuss with the LBMT the nature and results of the investigation of this matter. I herein waive any objection to such disclosure based on due process of law under either the State or Federal Constitution or under State statutory law, including La. R.S. 49:977.2. I expressly acknowledge that the disclosure of such information to the LBMT shall be without prejudice to the Prosecutor's authority to file a formal Administrative Complaint, or the LBMT's capacity to adjudicate such Administrative Complaint, should the LBMT decline to approve this Consent Agreement and Order. I further acknowledge my awareness that should the LBMT approve this Consent Agreement and Order that the Consent Agreement and Order will become a matter of public record.

DATED: 8/16/2024 Li Fen Hou  
LIFEN HOU

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 16 day of August,  
2024, at Metairie, Louisiana.

Shan Jiang  
Notary Public  
Print Name: SHAN JIANG  
My Commission Expires: is for life



**ORDER**

By a majority vote of the Board members voting in favor of the Consent Agreement and Order at the Board meeting on Aug. 23, 2024, the Board hereby adopts said Agreement, and makes it an Order of this Board.

FOR THE BOARD:

*Kathryn Lea Love, Chair*  
Kathryn Lea Love, Chair