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FILED

SEP 17 2020

**BOARD OF MASSAGE
AND BODYWORK THERAPY**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF MASSAGE AND BODYWORK THERAPY

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF	:	Administrative Action
	:	
MICHAEL PALMA, LMBT	:	CONSENT ORDER
LICENSE NO. 18KT01335800	:	OF VOLUNTARY SURRENDER
	:	
TO PRACTICE MASSAGE AND	:	
BODYWORK THERAPY IN THE	:	
STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy (the "Board") upon receipt of a consumer complaint alleging that on or about May 2, 2019, Michael Palma, LMBT, ("Respondent") allegedly engaged in inappropriate conduct during a massage therapy session at Elements Massage in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. The alleged conduct took place during the time period that Respondent was not licensed to practice massage and bodywork therapy in New Jersey.

Respondent appeared and testified before the Board, with counsel, Arthur J. Murray, Esq., on October 29, 2019, regarding his treatment of A.H. During his appearance, Respondent denied engaging in any inappropriate conduct, but admitted to practicing prior to obtaining licensure.

Following Respondent's appearance before the Board, the Board received information from the Evesham Township Police Department that on or about November 24, 2019, Respondent allegedly engaged in inappropriate conduct during a massage therapy session at a Hand and Stone Spa in Marlton, New Jersey. Respondent denies engaging in any inappropriate conduct during the November 24, 2019, therapy session.

The conduct that Respondent is alleged to have engaged in, if proven, would demonstrate that Respondent engaged in professional misconduct and violated the Massage and Bodywork Therapist Licensing Act (N.J.S.A. 45:11-53 et seq.), and would provide grounds for the suspension or revocation of Respondent's license to practice as a massage and bodywork therapist in New Jersey, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e), N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(f), and/or N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h), based on violations of N.J.S.A. 45:11-73, N.J.A.C. 13:37A-3.3, and N.J.A.C. 13:37A-3.5.

The parties, desiring to resolve this matter without a need for a formal disciplinary proceeding, and it appearing that Respondent agrees to voluntarily surrender his license, to be

deemed a permanent revocation, without making admissions, and the Board finding the within disposition adequately protective of the public health, safety and welfare, and for good cause shown;

IT IS on this 17th day of September, 2020

HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT

1. Respondent's license to practice massage and bodywork therapy in New Jersey is hereby voluntarily surrendered. Such surrender shall be deemed a permanent revocation with no ability to reapply for licensure.

2. Respondent shall immediately cease and desist from holding himself out as a massage and bodywork therapist and shall refrain from the practice of massage and bodywork in the State of New Jersey.

3. Respondent shall immediately forward his license, along with his wallet-sized biennial renewal license forthwith to State Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy, Attention: ToniAnn Petrella-Diaz, Executive Director, State Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy, 124 Halsey Street, P.O. Box 45048, Newark, New Jersey 07101.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF MASSAGE AND
BODYWORK THERAPY

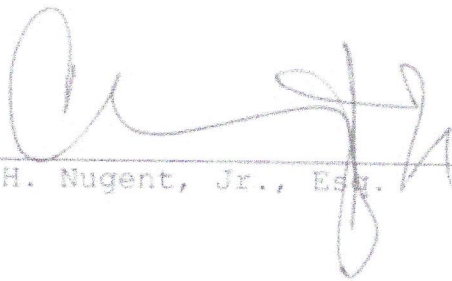
By: David Bank
David Bank, LMBT
Chairperson

I have read and I understand
this Consent Order and agree to be
bound by its terms. I further
hereby consent to the entry of
this Consent Order.



Michael Palma, LMBT

Consent to form of Order and to the entry
of this Order by the Board.



Charles H. Nugent, Jr., Esq.