



Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board

77 South High Street, 16th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108

Governor
Mike DeWine
Executive Director
Melissa Anthony

May 06, 2021

Lauren Goforth
1219 Thurnridge Dr.
Reading, OH. 45215-3941

Dear Ms. Goforth:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Adjudication Order approved and confirmed by the Athletic Trainers Board Section of the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board on April 30, 2021.

Pursuant to section 119.12 of the Ohio Revised Code, you may have the right to appeal this Order. Information on filing an appeal is contained within the Adjudication Order.

Sincerely,


Jeffery Duvall
Enforcement Division Supervisor

Certified Mail Number: 7018 1130 0001 4477 1052

Return Receipt Requested

cc: Lindsay Miller, Assistant Attorney General

Before the Ohio
Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board
Athletic Trainers Section

IN RE:

The eligibility of **Lauren Goforth, AT004059**,
to retain her license as an Athletic Trainer in the
State of Ohio

Case Number: **AT-20-045A**

Adjudication Order

This matter came for deliberation and decision before the Athletic Trainers Section of the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board (hereinafter "**Board**") on the 30th of April, 2021 at a special meeting of the Board.

The State was represented by Senior Assistant Attorney General, Emily Pelphrey. Lauren Goforth (hereinafter "**Goforth**") was not present nor was she represented by counsel in the hearing.

The State admitted into evidence an Affidavit and Exhibits (1-23) from Board employee, Jeffery Duvall:

- Exhibit 1. A copy of **Goforth's** licensure information, retrieved on or about March 15, 2021, from the Ohio ELicense portal reflecting **Goforth's** licensure as an athletic trainer.
- Exhibit 2. **(Sealed)** Confidential patient key providing the identification of Patient.
- Exhibit 3. A copy of the board's subpoena sent via certified mail to Reid Hospital dated February 28, 2020.
- Exhibit 4. A copy of the board's subpoena sent via certified mail to Preble Shawnee High School dated February 28, 2020.
- Exhibit 5. A copy of the United States Postal Service tracking results of Exhibit 3 and a copy of the certified mail return receipt reflecting that the certified mail was delivered to and signed by Reid Hospital staff on March 04, 2021.
- Exhibit 6. A copy of the United States Postal Service tracking results of Exhibit 4 and a copy of the certified mail return receipt reflecting that the certified mail was delivered to and signed by Preble Shawnee High School staff on March 04, 2020.

- Exhibit 7. A copy of the notarization document for exhibit 8 received from Reid Hospital on March 19, 2020 obtained from subpoena response.
- Exhibit 8. A copy of the Employment Action Sheet – Separation from Reid Hospital providing conclusions of their investigation into **Goforth's** inappropriate relationship with patient and terminating her employment dated October 01, 2015 obtained from subpoena response.
- Exhibit 9. **(Sealed)** Statement provided by James Muncy, Athletic Trainer on August 11, 2020.
- Exhibit 10. **(Sealed)** Statement provided by Brad Wright, Athletic Director/Teacher on September 09, 2020.
- Exhibit 11. Statement provided by Roger Ellis, Assistant High School Principal on October 1, 2020.
- Exhibit 12. **(Sealed)** Statement provided by a Minor, Witness on October 1, 2020.
- Exhibit 13. **(Sealed)** Statement provided by Candy Conway, Witness on October 21, 2020.
- Exhibit 14. **(Sealed)** Sworn affidavit provided by Lauren Goforth, Respondent on October 26, 2020.
- Exhibit 15. Statement provided by Brian Steele, Goforth's Supervisor – Reid Hospital on November 10, 2020.
- Exhibit 16. Statement provided by David Ulrich, Superintendent (retired) on November 6, 2020.
- Exhibit 17. Statement provided by Brian Steele, Supervisor - Reid Hospital on November 9, 2020.
- Exhibit 18. **(Sealed)** Statement provided by Patient, Victim on November 10, 2020.
- Exhibit 19. **(Sealed)** Statement provided by Dianna Whitis, High School Principal on November 30, 2020.
- Exhibit 20. **(Sealed)** Statement provided by a Minor, Witness on September 24, 2015.
- Exhibit 21. A copy of the Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing sent via certified mail to **Goforth's** forwarding address of record on February 05, 2021.

Exhibit 22. A copy of the United States Postal Service tracking results of Exhibit 21 and a copy of the certified mail return receipt reflecting that the certified mail was delivered to and signed by **Goforth** on February 19, 2021.

Exhibit 23. A copy of the Goldman Hearing scheduling letter sent to **Goforth** via regular mail on April 09, 2021.

Based on a thorough review of the evidence, the Board found that the following Findings of Fact were proved by a preponderance of the evidence:

1. **Goforth** was employed with Reid Hospital while working as an Athletic Trainer at Preble Shawnee High School in the year 2015.
2. Patient was a minor, high school student and a patient of **Goforth's** in the year of 2015.
3. **Goforth** entered into a sexual relationship with patient beginning in the summer of 2015 and lasting until October of 2015.
4. **Goforth** intended to deceive the investigation while being interviewed by board investigators in her oral statements and written sworn affidavit.

Based on thorough review of the evidence, the Board made the following Conclusions of Law based upon a preponderance of evidence:

1. **Goforth** was properly served with the Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing pursuant to R.C. 119.07. Her attorney of record received a copy of the Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing via regular mail pursuant to R.C. 119.07.
2. R.C. 119.07 required **Goforth** to request a hearing within thirty (30) days of the mailing of the Notice in which **Goforth** did not comply.
3. The Board had jurisdiction to conduct a hearing in this matter pursuant to *Goldman v. State Medical Board of Ohio*, 110 Ohio App. 3d 124; 673 N.E.2d 677 (1996).
4. **Goforth** engaged in inappropriate conversations of a sexual nature with a patient/minor/student during the course of her practice as an athletic trainer in violation of Ohio Revised Code sections 4755.64(A)(2), (A)(4), & (A)(5), and Ohio Administrative Code § 4755-41-01 (A)(7), (B)(1), (E)(4), (E)(4)(b) and (E)(5)(b).
5. **Goforth** engaged in unethical behavior with a patient/minor/student in violation of Ohio Revised Code sections 4755.64(A)(2), (A)(4), & (A)(5), and Ohio Administrative Code § 4755-41-01 (B)(1), (E)(4), (D)(12), (E)(4)(b) and (E)(5)(b).

6. **Goforth** entered into a sexual relationship and with a patient/minor/student during the course of her practice as an athletic trainer in violation of Ohio Revised Code sections 4755.64(A)(2), (A)(4) & (A)(5) and Administrative Code § 4755-41(B)(1), (E)(4), (E)(4)(b) and (E)(5)(b).
7. **Goforth** intended to deceive OTPTAT Board investigators by providing false statements during an interview. One false statement was in the form of a sworn affidavit. Said conduct violates Ohio Revised Code section 4755.64(F)(6).

Based upon a preponderance of the evidence, and Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law stated above, it is the conclusion of the Board that the athletic trainers license of **Goforth** shall be disciplined.

Thereafter, the Board voted to enter upon its Journal the following Order:

- The Athletic Trainers license of Lauren Goforth is hereby REVOKED.

The decision of the Athletic Trainers Section of the Board shall take effect immediately.

TIME AND METHOD TO PERFECT AN APPEAL

Ohio Revised Code Section 119.12 may authorize an appeal from this Order. Such an appeal must be commenced by the filing of a Notice of Appeal with the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board and in the court of common pleas of the county in which the place of business of the licensee is located or the county in which the licensee is a resident. If the party appealing from the order is not a resident of and has no place of business in this state, the party may appeal to the court of common pleas of Franklin County, Ohio. The Notice of Appeal must set forth the order appealed from and state that the agency's order is not supported by reliable, probative, and substantial evidence and is not in accordance with law. The Notice of Appeal may, but need not, set forth the specific grounds of the party's appeal beyond the statement that the agency's order is not supported by reliable, probative, and substantial evidence and is not in accordance with law. Both Notices of Appeal must be filed with the Board and the applicable court within fifteen days after mailing of this notice of the agency's order, and in accordance with the provisions of Ohio Revised Code section 119.12.

By order of the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board – Athletic Trainers Section.



Melissa Anthony, Executive Director

May 6, 2021
Date of Mailing

CERTIFICATION

The State of Ohio,

County of Franklin, SS

I, the undersigned Executive Director for the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact reproduction of the original Order of the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board, Physical therapy Section entered on its journal, on the 20th day of November, 2020.

Melissa Anthony

Melissa Anthony, Executive Director



May 6, 2021

Date