

**BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY  
MINUTES**

DATE: August 12, 2022  
TIME: 9:00 AM CST

LOCATION: Poplar Conference Room  
665 Mainstream Drive, 1st Floor  
Nashville, TN 37243

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ronald Barredo, PT Board Member  
Kelly O'Connor, PT Board Member  
Jane David, PT Board Member  
LeAnn F. Childress, PT, Board Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Harris, PTA, Board Chair

STAFF PRESENT: Noranda French, Unit Director  
Lara Gill, Senior Associate General Counsel  
Kara Love, Board Administrator  
Gerard Dolan, Board Attorney

GUESTS PRESENT: Karen Smith, Board Consultant

---

**I. Trial of Christopher Northcutt PT, License Number 6904**

This matter came to be heard before the Tennessee Board of Physical Therapy ("Board") on the 12th day of August 2022, pursuant to a Notice of Hearing and Charges and Memorandum for Assessment of Civil Penalties ("NOC") filed against the Respondent, Christopher M. Northcutt, PT ("Respondent" or "Northcutt"). Presiding at the hearing was the Honorable Claudia Padfield, Administrative Law Judge, assigned by the Secretary of State. The Tennessee Department of Health ("State") was represented by Lara E. Gill, Senior Associate General Counsel. The Respondent was present and represented by Rob McKinney, Esq. After consideration of the NOC, evidentiary documents, testimony of witnesses, arguments of counsel, and the record as a whole,

Kelly O'Connor, made a motion, seconded by Dr. Jane David, of the following below. The motion carried. The Board finds as follows:

Respondent has been at all times pertinent hereto licensed by the Board as a physical therapist in the State of Tennessee, having been granted Tennessee physical therapist license number 6904 by the Board on August 14, 2003. Respondent's physical therapist license is set to expire on January 31, 2023.

2. Respondent admits that on July 30, 2020, he pled guilty to two counts of domestic assault, and one count of attempted retaliation for past acts (filing false reports). According to the certified

Tennessee Board of Physical Therapy  
August 12, 2022  
Board Meeting Minutes

criminal judgments, Respondent was ordered to serve 20 consecutive weekends in incarceration beginning on July 31, 2020. Respondent was placed on supervised probation for a period of 11 months and 29 days, and ordered to successfully complete a Batterer's Intervention Program and 100 hours of unpaid community service. Respondent was also fined.

3. On August 14, 2020, Respondent contacted counsel for the Board disclosing his guilty pleas for two counts of domestic violence assault and one count of retaliation for past acts by filing a false report. Respondent sent electronic correspondence to the Board's attorney and Noranda French, Unit 3 Director, on August 18, 2020.

4. On or about November 17, 2020, the Franklin County, Tennessee Criminal Court entered an order allowing Respondent to leave the State of Tennessee. Respondent remains on probation while he attends chiropractor school in Missouri. Respondent is still prohibited from having any contact with Amanda Fitch and their two children. Respondent testified that, although he has left Tennessee, he wishes to start his own practice, incorporating both physical therapy and chiropractic, and that he may return to Tennessee to do so.

5. The criminal court judgments also reflect that Respondent was found guilty of attempted retaliation against Amanda Fitch for reporting Respondent's domestic violence. This verdict of guilt establishes that Respondent retaliated against Ms. Fitch by filing a false report with law enforcement accusing Ms. Fitch of rape and sexual assault. Respondent's actions in this regard are reasonably related to the functions, qualifications and duties of a physical therapists, as physical therapists are required to accurately deliver and report physical therapy services to the public, including patients, other health care providers and insurance carriers.

6. The criminal court judgments are verdicts of guilt for two counts of domestic violence assault and one count of retaliation of past acts by filing a false report. These three judgments, in combination with the testimony of witnesses, requests for admissions and other documentary evidence provided by the State, constitute substantial and material evidence that Respondent was convicted of offenses involving moral turpitude. The substantial and material evidence provided by the State also shows that Respondent violated criminal laws in the State of Tennessee and well as physical therapy ethics.

Dr. Ronald Barredo, made a motion, to accept the Conclusions of Law as written, Kelly O'Connor, seconded the motion. The motion carried; the Conclusions of Law are as followed:

The findings of fact contained in paragraphs one (1) through six (6) constitute sufficient grounds to discipline Respondent's physical therapist license for violations of the Tennessee Occupational and Physical Therapy Practice Act, (Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-13-101, et seq.) and the Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 7. The findings of fact contained in paragraphs one (1) through six (6) constitute the offense found at Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-13-312(7):

Conviction of a felony or any offense involving moral turpitude in the courts of this state or any other state, territory or country. "Conviction," as used in this subdivision ( a)(7), includes a finding or verdict of guilt or a plea of nolo contendere

8. The findings of fact contained in paragraphs one (1) through six (6) constitute the offense found at Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-13-312(12):

Failing to adhere to standards of ethics of the physical therapy profession

9. The findings of fact contained in paragraphs one (1) through six (6) constitute the offense found at Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-13-312(23):

A violation or attempted violation, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of or conspiring to violate any provisions of this chapter or any lawful order of the board issued pursuant thereto or any criminal statute of this state.

10. The findings of fact contained in paragraphs one (1) through six (6) constitute violations of the Code of Ethics set forth in Tenn. Comp. R. and Reg. 1150-01-.14.

Kelly O'Connor, made a motion, to approve the Policy Statement as written, Dr. Jane David, seconded the motion. The motion carried. The Tennessee Board of Physical Therapy takes this action to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the people in the State of Tennessee. The Board recognizes that ensuring that physical therapists and physical therapist assistants comply with the law is crucial to achieving this goal.

Dr. Jane David, made a motion, to approve the order as written below, Dr. Ronald Barredo, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

THEREFORE, in consideration of the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED as follows:

11. The Tennessee physical therapist license of Christopher M. Northcutt, license number 6904, this Final Order. 12. During Respondent's suspension period identified in paragraph 11, as a condition to have his suspension lifted, Respondent shall maintain all continuing education coursework required for licensure. In addition:

a. Respondent must also enroll and successfully complete six (6) hours of coursework in physical therapy ethics and jurisprudence. Course hours earned from attendance and completion of the courses shall be in addition to the CE hours required to maintain licensure.

b. Within thirty (30) days after successful completion of the courses, Respondent shall mail or deliver proof of successful completion of the courses to the Disciplinary Coordinator, Office of General Counsel, Tennessee Department of Health, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37243 or via electronic means (email) to [disciplinary.coordinator@tn.gov](mailto:disciplinary.coordinator@tn.gov) 13. The Respondent is assessed and hereby ORDERED to pay four (4) Type A Civil Penalties in the amount of one thousand dollars each (\$1,000.00) representing one penalty for each ground for discipline for a total assessment of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00). 14. The Respondent is hereby ORDERED to pay the actual and reasonable costs of prosecuting this case to the extent allowed by law. Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-1-144. These costs will be established by an Assessment of Costs prepared and filed by counsel for the State. Pursuant to 'Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-1-144(b), the maximum amount of costs to be assessed shall not exceed twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00). 15. Any and all penalties and costs for this order shall be paid in full within twenty-four (24) months after the issuance of the Affidavit of Costs. Payments shall be made in equal monthly installments by the fifth day of each month until in paid in full, with payments to commence the fifth day of the month immediately following the issuance of the Assessment of Costs. Payment shall be made by certified check, cashier's check, or money order, payable to the State of Tennessee, Department of Health. Any and all payments shall be forwarded to: Office of General Counsel. A notation shall be placed on said money order or such check that it is payable for the Costs and Penalties of Christopher M. Northcutt, PT, Complaint No. 2020024861. 16. This is a formal disciplinary action and will be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) and/or similar agency as SUSPENSION. SO ORDERED by a panel of the Tennessee Board of Physical Therapy, this 12th day of August, 2022.

Tennessee Board of Physical Therapy  
August 12, 2022  
Board Meeting Minutes

## **II. Call to Order**

A roll call of board members was initiated, by Noranda French, Unit Director. With a quorum present, the meeting started at 3:01 pm.

## **III. Review and approve minutes from previous meetings**

After a review of the May 13, 2022, minutes, Kelly O'Connor, made a motion, to approve the minutes as written, Dr. Jane David, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

After a review of the May 13, 2022, taskforce minutes, Dr. Jane David, made a motion, to approve the minutes, after updating who adjourned the meeting, Kelly O'Connor, seconded the motion.

## **IV. Receive reports and/or requests from the Office of General Counsel**

Lara Gill, Senior Associate General Counsel, presented the board members with a Consent Order for Riggs Horton – PT No. 66926- Not Present - Dr. Jane David, made a motion, to approve the Consent Order as written, Kelly O'Connor, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ms. Gill presented the board members with a Consent Order for Charity O'Neal – PT No. 7381- Not Present - Dr. Ronald Barredo, made a motion, to approve the Consent Order as written, Kelly O'Connor, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ms. Gill presented the board members with an Order of Compliance for Andre J Stone – PTA No. 4633 – Present- Dr. Ronald Barredo, made a motion, to approve the Order of Compliance as written, Dr. Jane David, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ms. Gill presented the board members with an Order of Compliance for Michael Todd Dolen – PTA No. 4974 -Not Present- Dr. Ronald Barredo, made a motion, to approve the Order of Compliance as written, Dr. Jane David, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Lara Gill, Senior Associate General Counsel, reported that there are currently eight (8) open cases, one (1) resolved through trial, three (3) resolved through consent orders.

## **V. Receive reports and/or requests from the Office of Investigations**

Will report on October 14, 2022

## **VI. Receive reports and/or requests from the Division of Health Licensure and Regulation**

Will report on October 14, 2022



Dr. Jane David, made a motion, to ratify the closed Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant files, Kelly O'Connor, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**IX. Receive reports and/or requests from the Administrative Office**

STATISTICAL REPORT

Kara Love, Board Administrator reported:

The following are the total active licensees as of August 10, 2022:

<b>PT</b>	<b>PTA</b>
Active Licensees 8112	Active Licensees 4597
New applications received 198	New applications received 62
New licenses issued 213	New licenses issued 95
Reinstated 6	Reinstated 7
Renewals 848	Renewals 536
Provisional License 0	Provisional License 0
Retired 23	Retired 18
Expired 68	Expired 40
Closed Files 15	Closed Files 10

Kara Love, Board Administrator reported:

The following are the total active licensees as of August 11, 2022:

Active Privileges 279
New CPT privileges issued 35
New CPTA privileges issued 13
Number of renewals 13
Expired 8
Terminated 4

Kara Love, Board Administrator, reported Agreed Citations.

Christopher Churchill PT No. 8165 – Signed and paid the agreed citation, and he has submitted makeup hours. Dr. Ronald Barredo, made a motion, to ratify the agreed citation, Dr. Jane David, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Halley Collins PT No. 10950 – Signed and paid the agreed citation, and she has submitted makeup hours. Kelly O'Connor, made a motion, to ratify the agreed citation, Dr. Jane David, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Dana Greer PT No. 5841 – Signed and paid the agreed citation, and she has submitted makeup hours. Dr. Ronald Barredo, made a motion, to ratify the agreed citation, Kelly O'Connor, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Cory LaPeze PT No. 12908 – Signed and paid the agreed citation, and he has submitted makeup hours. Kelly O’Connor, made a motion, to ratify the agreed citation, Dr. Jane David, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mamerto Pacris Jr. PT No. 2776 – Signed and paid the agreed citation, and has submitted makeup hours. Kelly O’Connor, made a motion, to ratify the agreed citation, Dr. Ronald Barredo, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Nicholas Chantara PT No. 8728 – Signed and paid the agreed citation, and has submitted makeup hours. Dr. Ronald Barredo, made a motion, to ratify the agreed citation, Kelly O’Connor, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Veronica McDougal PTA No. 4529 – Signed and paid the agreed citation, and has submitted makeup hours. Dr. Jane David, made a motion, to ratify the agreed citation, Dr. Ronald Barredo, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Stephen Jones Jr. PTA No. 4616 – Signed and paid the agreed citation, and has submitted makeup hours. Dr. Ronald Barredo, made a motion, to ratify the agreed citation, Dr. Jane David, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**X. Discuss and take action, if needed, regarding correspondence**

Direct Access Correspondence tabled until October 14, 2022

Dr. Jane David, made a motion, to approve Course Name: Dry Needling Level 1 Course Number: 2829, Dr. Ronald Barredo, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Kelly O’Connor, made a motion to approve Course Name: Intricate Art Spine & Body Solutions Dry Needling 1 Course Number: 2841, Dr. Ronald Barredo, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Dr. Ronald Barredo, made a motion, to approve Course Name: Intricate Art Spine & Body Solutions Dry Needling 2 Course One Course Number: 2842, Kelly O’Connor, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Kelly O’Connor, made a motion, to approve Course Name: Master Dry Needling Level-2 Course Number: 2846, Dr. Jane David, seconded the motion. The motion carried

Dr. Ronald Barredo, made a motion, to approve Course Name: Foundations in Dry Needling for Orthopedic Rehab and Sports Performance (SFDN1) Course Number: 2867, Dr. Jane David, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**XI. Discuss and take action, if needed, regarding legislation:**

Nothing to report at this time.

**XII. Discuss and take action, if needed, regarding rulemaking hearings, rule amendments, and policies**

Nothing to report at this time.

**XIII. Discuss old/new Board Business**

Nothing to report at this time.

**XIV. Ratification of 2022 and 2023 Board Meeting Dates**

February 3, 2023  
May 12, 2023  
August 4, 2023  
November 3, 2023

Dr. Jane David, made a motion, to approve the listed Board Meeting Dates, Kelly O'Connor, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**XV. Adjourn**

Kelly O'Connor, made a motion, to adjourn the meeting, Dr. Ronald Barredo, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:33 pm.

THE MINUTES WERE RATIFIED AT THE OCTOBER 14, 2022, BOARD MEETING

Tennessee Board of Physical Therapy  
August 12, 2022  
Board Meeting Minutes



Tennessee Board of Physical Therapy  
August 12, 2022  
Board Meeting Minutes