

LOUISIANA BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY (LBESPA)

IN THE MATTER OF

LBESPA COMPLAINT #2024-03

CORI DYSART GAGNARD

L-SLP LICENSE #5582

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

WHEREAS, Cori Dysart Gagnard is a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist subject to the jurisdiction and Rules and Regulations of the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "Board"), including the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act (La. R.S. 37:2650, *et seq.*), and the Professional and Occupational Standards for Speech Pathology and Audiology (LAC 46:LXXV §103, *et seq.*); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to a complaint and an administrative investigation, the Speech-Language Pathologist, Cori Dysart Gagnard, has indicated her desire to resolve this matter through a Consent Agreement and Order as provided for in Rule No. 501(H) of the Board's Rules and Regulations and LA R.S. 49:975(D) of the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act; and

WHEREAS, Cori Dysart Gagnard has admitted the following:

1. Ms. Gagnard is and at all times pertinent to the facts and matters alleged herein, a Speech-Language Pathologist licensed by the Board to engage in the practice of speech-language pathology in the State of Louisiana pursuant to the Louisiana Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act, La. R.S. 37:2650, *et seq.*, as evidenced by License No. 5582.

2. At all times pertinent hereto, Ms. Gagnard was actively engaged in the practice of speech-language pathology and employed as a contractor by Early Steps, a state program of the Louisiana Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities.
3. From August 2022 through August 2023, Ms. Gagnard provided speech therapy services for the minor child, JM, through Early Steps.
4. Ms. Gagnard admitted to the Board's investigator that she submitted duplicate Medicaid billing forms.

WHEREAS, the Board's Complaints Committee determined:

- a. Ms. Gagnard requested that the mother of the minor child, JM, sign a blank claim form.
- b. Ms. Gagnard billed Medicaid for 144 speech therapy sessions for the minor child, JM.; however, only 26 therapy sessions can be verified by contact notes.
- c. Medicaid paid a total of \$11,456.49 for speech therapy sessions for the minor child, JM, from August 2022 to August 2023, for services billed by Cori Gagnard, SLP. Only \$2,676.75 worth of speech therapy sessions provided to JM by Cori Gagnard can be verified, resulting in a difference of \$8,779.74 in overbilled speech therapy services.
- d. Of the 144 therapy sessions billed to Medicaid for JM, 37 sessions billed were for duplicate dates, which fraudulent billing would have resulted in additional payment by Medicaid of \$3,961.59, resulting in a total of \$12,741.33 in fraudulent transactions to Medicaid.
- e. The Board did not investigate charges or claims for any other speech therapy clients of Ms. Gagnard.

5. The Louisiana Department of Health ("LDH") opened a case against Ms. Gagnard based upon the alleged fraudulent transactions detailed above, and sought recoupment of certain funds paid by Medicaid for speech-language therapy services purportedly rendered by Ms. Gagnard.
6. In association with its investigation, LDH conducted an informal hearing with Ms. Gagnard to address the alleged fraudulent payments.

As a follow-up to the hearing, by correspondence dated October 22, 2024, LDH demanded recoupment of \$33,294.29 from Ms. Gagnard related to the charges detailed above.

7. To resolve the case with LDH, Ms. Gagnard paid the full amount of recoupment demanded by LDH. However, Ms. Gagnard maintained that she only billed for services provided and paid the recoupment amount to resolve the pending case with LDH.

Ms. Gagnard acknowledges the following:

1. That the Board may have sufficient evidence to establish a violation.
2. That there were certain discrepancies relative to her record keeping and billing pertaining to services rendered to JM.
3. Ms. Gagnard denies that she asked JM's mother to sign a blank claim form.
4. There are document discrepancies relative to some of the visits for which Ms. Gagnard submitted billing.
5. Ms. Gagnard provided extensive documentation to the LDH documenting the large majority of speech language services rendered and billed for by Ms. Gagnard.

6. At the conclusion of its investigation, the LDH did not give Ms. Gagnard credit for any make-up visits, visits for which its investigator could not read the contact note even though Ms. Gagnard had documented proof of the services rendered, and for a number of visits that the LDH believed had overlapping service time when the service locations were close in proximity.

WHEREAS, by creating and submitting inaccurate claim forms to Medicaid, on behalf of the minor client, JM, Ms. Gagnard acknowledges a potential violation of **La. R.S. 37:2662(A)(3)** by engaging in negligent or fraudulent billing in connection with services provided. Such conduct acknowledges a potential violation of: **Rule 701(E)(3)(d)** of the Rules and Regulations, which states that individuals shall not defraud through intent, ignorance or negligence, or engage in any scheme to defraud in connection with obtaining payment, reimbursement...for services provided...; **Rule 701(E)(3)(g)** of the Rules and Regulations, which states that individuals...shall complete all materials honestly and without omission; **Rule 701(E)(4)(e)** of the Rules and Regulations, which states that individuals shall not engage in dishonesty, negligence, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation; as well as **Rule 701(E)(4)(m)** of the Rules and Regulations, which states that individuals shall comply with local, state and federal laws and regulations applicable to professional practice...

WHEREAS, by allegedly charging Medicaid for services not rendered, Ms. Gagnard acknowledges a potential violation of **La. R.S. 37:2662(A)(4)**, by engaging in conduct likely to deceive, defraud or harm the public, or demonstrated a willful or careless disregard for the welfare or safety of a consumer. Such conduct is also a violation of Rule

701(E)(3)(c), which states individuals shall not misrepresent...diagnostic information, services rendered...

WHEREAS, by failing to maintain accurate documentation, Ms. Gagnard acknowledges a potential violation of **Rule 701E(1)(p)** of the Rules and Regulations, which states that individuals shall maintain timely records and accurately record and bill for services provided...and shall not misrepresent services rendered...

WHEREAS, Ms. Gagnard violated **La. R.S. 37:2662(A)(5)** by engaging in unprofessional conduct, as defined by the rules established by the board, or has violated the code of ethics adopted and published by the board. Such conduct is also a violation of Rule 701(E)(2), which states that individuals shall honor their responsibility to achieve and maintain the highest level of professional competence and performance consistent with prevailing practice standards, as well as Rule 701(E)(4)(d), which states that individuals shall not engage in any form of conduct that adversely reflects on the professions or on the individual's fitness to serve persons professionally.

WHEREAS, the Board and Ms. Gagnard voluntarily entered into an Interim Consent Agreement and Order which Ms. Gagnard executed and returned to the Board's counsel on or about October 17, 2024.

WHEREAS, Ms. Gagnard voluntarily agreed to a suspension of her license in October 2024 and has not subsequently engaged in the practice of speech-language pathology;

WHEREAS, the Board is persuaded that it is in the best interest of the public to enter into this Consent Agreement and Order, the conditions of which are set forth hereafter;

WHEREAS, Cori Dysart Gagnard hereby formally waives any and all legal, administrative, procedural, or judicial remedies, appeals, or relief that may be available in the Administrative Procedure Act, the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act (La. R.S. 37:2650, *et seq.*), the Professional and Occupational Standards for Speech Pathology and Audiology (LAC 46:LXXV §103, *et seq.*), or any other law.;

WHEREAS, the Board and Ms. Gagnard have entered into this Consent Agreement and Order by which the Board agrees to resolve the complaint. Ms. Gagnard agrees to accept the following specified conditions in resolution of the complaint.

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 Cori Dysart Gagnard accepts the following administrative action which is a final decision pursuant to the LA R.S. 49:977:

1. The license of Cori Dysart Gagnard, which allowed her to be engaged in the practice of Speech-Language Pathology in the State of Louisiana, as evidenced by License Number 5582, is hereby SUSPENDED for three (3) years from the date that this Consent Agreement and Order is approved by the Board, giving credit for the one year voluntary suspension as per the Interim Consent Agreement and Order signed by the Board on December 13, 2024. Beginning with her 2026 renewal and during the remainder of the period of suspension, Ms. Gagnard must renew her license annually, in accordance with the Rules and Regulations, submitting documentation of at least ten (10) hours of continuing education for the purpose of renewal and pay all fees applicable to the renewal of her license.

2. Ms. Gagnard affirmatively states that she has not engaged in the practice of speech-language pathology effective October 17, 2024 and shall not practice speech-language pathology during her continued period of suspension, as per the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order.
3. Ms. Gagnard shall successfully complete the Board's open book examination, regarding Louisiana Revised Statute 37:2650-2666 (The Practice Act); the Board's Rules and Regulations; and Ethical Questions, within ninety (90) days from the dates all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order, and pay all related testing fees.
4. Ms. Gagnard shall pay a fine in the amount of \$7,000.00 within three (3) years. Quarterly payments are required, with the first payment due within 90 days from the date all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order.
5. Ms. Gagnard shall reimburse the Board for the costs of the investigation, in the amount of \$600.00, in addition to legal costs in the amount of \$4,640.00, within one (1) year from the date all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order.
6. Ms. Gagnard shall complete an additional ten (10) hours of continuing education in documentation, ethics, professionalism, and recordkeeping. All courses must be pre-approved by the Board. A certificate of completion must be submitted at the time of the renewal, but no later than May 31st annually. These continuing education hours are in addition to those required for the annual renewal.
7. Prior to seeking reinstatement from the Board, Ms. Gagnard shall complete a fitness for duty evaluation with a Board-recognized provider. Ms. Gagnard agrees to follow all treatment recommendations resulting from the fitness for duty

evaluation. If individual therapy is recommended in the evaluation, the individual therapy provider must be approved by the Board. Ms. Gagnard shall sign all necessary medical release forms for the full evaluation report and any treatment discharge summaries to be released directly to the individual therapy provider. Ms. Gagnard agrees to allow the Board to send a copy of the Consent Agreement and Order to the individual therapy provider. Individual therapy reports shall be sent directly to the Board from the individual therapy provider on a quarterly basis, to be received no later than the 15th of January, April, July, and October for a one year period, unless the individual therapist recommends a longer-termed monitoring period.

Ms. Gagnard waives any and all legal, procedural, or judicial remedies, appeals, or relief which might be available under the Administrative Procedure Act, the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act (La. R.S. 37:2650, *et seq.*), the Professional and Occupational Standards for Speech Pathology and Audiology (LAC 46:LXXV §103, *et seq.*), or any other law.

Ms. Gagnard specifically acknowledges that failure to comply with the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order in a timely manner without LBESPA's authorization shall result in **FURTHER SUSPENSION** of licensure without further notice until such time as the Board receives and accepts documentation of Ms. Gagnard's completion of the requirements set forth above. The admissions contained herein, will be considered proven and the only issue will be failure to follow the terms of the Consent Agreement and Order.

THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER is a matter of public record for violation of the above referenced sections of the Louisiana Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act and the Rules and Regulations. Ms. Gagnard is to be Publicly Reprimanded for violation of the above referenced sections in the Practice Act (LA R.S. 37:2650 et seq.) and the Rules and Regulations. Such reprimand shall include publication by LBESPA, notification to Early Steps, the Louisiana Department of Education, Louisiana Speech-Language Hearing Association (LSHA), American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), Speech Pathologists and Audiologists in Louisiana Schools (SPALS). This matter will also be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) and the Medicaid Fraud Division of the Louisiana Attorney General's Office.

I, CORI DYSART GAGNARD, make these acknowledgements and waivers in support of a final disposition of Case No. 2024-03 by Consent Agreement and Order pursuant to La. R.S. 49:975(D), in lieu of the institution and prosecution of formal administrative proceedings, 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 Board attorney or LBESPA Executive Director to present this Order to LBESPA for its consideration and to disclose to and discuss with LBESPA 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 LBESPA shall be

without prejudice to the attorney's authority to file a formal Administrative Complaint, or LBESPA's capacity to adjudicate such Administrative Complaint, should LBESPA decline to approve this Consent Agreement and Order. I further acknowledge my awareness that should LBESPA approve this Consent Agreement and Order that the Consent Agreement and Order will become a matter of public record.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology has entered into this Consent Agreement and Order and executed same at Baton Rouge, Louisiana on this 5th day of December, 2025.

2025
Quint J. Vaughan
Chairperson

Chairperson

Received

Vice Chairperson

Deanna Hardy

Secretary/Treasurer

Emily Mutt

Board Member

Stephen J Harris
Board Member

Board member

IN WITNESS HEREOF, Cori Dysart Gagnard, has entered into this Consent Agreement and Order and executed same at New Orleans, Louisiana, on this 20th day of November, 2025.

Cori Dysart Gagnard
Cori Dysart Gagnard
W W W W W W W W
Notary Public

NOTARIZATION REQUIRED



CM
Initials