

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

IN THE MATTER OF

LBESPA COMPLAINT #2023-12

AMNA ESSA

PREVIOUS L-SLP LICENSE #6606

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

WHEREAS, Amna Essa was 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") at all times referenced; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to a complaint and an administrative investigation, the former Speech-Language Pathologist, Amna Essa, 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. 49:955(D) of the Louisiana Administrative Procedures Act. Amna Essa was licensed as a Speech-Language Pathologist from May 28, 2013 through June 30, 2023, thereby accepting the Board's jurisdiction, and

WHEREAS, Amna Essa has admitted the following:

1. Ms. Essa was, 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 LA Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act, LA R.S. 37:2650 et seq., as evidenced by License No. 6606.

2. At all times pertinent hereto, Ms. Essa was actively engaged in the practice of speech-language pathology and employed by Provider Advantage Rehab.
3. On Saturday, March 18, 2023, Ms. Essa falsified documentation of her employment attendance and submitted charges for treating patients, at two different facilities.
4. Ms. Essa admitted to her employer that she did not work at either of the two facilities, nor did she see patients on Saturday, March 18, 2023, although she indicated time records for her employer that reflected that she worked, as well as billed for therapy.
5. Ms. Essa failed to cooperate with the Board and the investigation process.

WHEREAS, the Board's investigation revealed:

- a. Ms. Essa documented and charged for seeing patients on Saturday, March 18, 2023, when she did not.
- b. There were discrepancies in the time worked on Saturday, March 18, 2023. The facility cameras were checked and Ms. Essa did not present for work that day. Additionally, Ms. Essa did not clock in at either facility, claiming that the time clocks had errors, she did not complete a temperature check and log her temperature, and no one present at the facility saw Ms. Essa there on the day in question.
- c. Provider Advantage Rehab reversed the patient charges before they were submitted through the system.

WHEREAS, by not providing required services to patients, Amna Essa engaged in conduct likely to harm the public and demonstrated a willful disregard for the welfare of consumers which is a violation of **LA R.S. 37:2662(4)**. Such conduct is a violation of **Rule 701E(1)** which states that licensees shall honor their responsibility to hold paramount the welfare of persons they serve professionally...provide professional services with honesty and compassion, and respect the rights of those served. The licensee shall take all reasonable precautions to avoid harm to the individual served professionally and **Rule 701E(4)(e)** of the Rules and Regulations, which states that individuals' statements to the public shall provide accurate and complete information about the nature and management of communication disorders, about the professions, about professional services...

WHEREAS, by charging for services not rendered, Amna Essa is in violation of **LA R.S. 37:2662(3)**. **Rule 701E(1)(p)** of the Rules and Regulations, which states that individuals shall maintain timely records and accurately bill for services provided...and shall not misrepresent services... and **Rule 701E(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, or grants and contracts for services provided...

WHEREAS, Amna Essa engaged in unprofessional conduct which is a violation of **LA R.S. 37:2662(5)**. Such conduct is also a violation of **Rule 701E(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, **Rule 701E(3)** which states that individuals shall honor their responsibility to the

public...and shall provide accurate information involving any aspect of the professions, **Rule 701E(3)(g)** which states that individuals shall not make false statements regarding areas of professional practice, and shall complete all materials honestly and without omission, **Rule 701E(4)** which states that individuals shall uphold the dignity and autonomy of the professions, maintain harmonious interprofessional and intraprofessional relationships, and accept the professions' self-imposed standards, **Rule 701E(4)(c)** states that individuals' statements to colleagues about professional services...shall adhere to prevailing professional standards and shall contain no misrepresentations, **Rule 701E(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, **Rule 701E(4)(e)** which states that individuals shall not engage in dishonesty, negligence, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation and **Rule 701E(4)(m)** which states that individuals shall comply with local, state, and federal laws and regulations applicable to professional practice...

WHEREAS, by failing to cooperate with the Board, Amna Essa is in violation of **Rule 701E(4)(o)** which states that individuals shall cooperate fully with the Board on matters of professional conduct relative to the Practice Act and the Rules and Regulations including the Code of Ethics, and shall not make false statements of fact or withhold relevant facts necessary to fairly adjudicate complaints and **Rule 701E(4)(n)** which states that individuals shall inform the board of any violations of the Practice Act and the Rules and Regulations, including the Code of Ethics.

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, Amna Essa hereby formally waives any and all legal, administrative, procedural, or judicial remedies, appeals, or relief which might be available under the Administrative Procedure Act, the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Act, or any other law or statute;

WHEREAS, the Board and Ms. Essa have entered into this Consent Agreement and Order by which the Board agrees to resolve the complaint. Ms. Essa 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. 49:955(D), the Board orders and Amna Essa accepts the following administrative action which is a final decision pursuant to the LA R.S. 49:958:

1. Ms. Essa shall successfully complete an open book examination, and pay all related testing fees, regarding Louisiana Revised Statute 37:2650-2666 (The Practice Act); the Board's Rules and Regulations; and Ethical Questions.
2. Ms. Essa shall complete ten (10) hours of continuing education in documentation, ethics and recordkeeping. All courses must be pre-approved by the board. A certificate of completion must be submitted by May 31, 2024. These continuing education hours are in addition to those required for reinstatement of your Speech-Language Pathology license.

3. Ms. Essa shall pay a \$2,500.00 fine within three (3) years from the date all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order. The first quarterly payment due within 90 days from the date that all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order.
4. Ms. Essa shall pay the investigative costs of adjudicating this matter in the amount of \$350.00 within 90 days from the date all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order.
5. Ms. Essa waives any and all legal, procedural, or judicial remedies, appeals, or relief which might be available under the Administrative Procedures Act, and the statutory and procedural rules of the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.
6. Ms. Essa 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 **SUSPENSION** of licensure without further notice until such time as the Board receives and accepts documentation of Ms. Essa'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. Essa 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, Louisiana Speech-Language Hearing Association (LSHA), American

Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), and the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB).

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 1st day of

December, 2023.

Chairperson

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Erica Chatelain
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Vice Chairperson

Deanna Hardy
Secretary/Treasurer

Dorothy Sheel Lomillon
Board Member

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IN WITNESS HEREOF, Amna Essa, former Speech-Language Pathology licensee, has entered into this Consent Agreement and Order and executed same at

Kenner, Louisiana, on this 16th day of October, 2023.



Amna Essa

Kimberly B. Lanosga
Notary Public

NOTARIZATION REQUIRED

