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

IN THE MATTER OF

LBESPA COMPLAINT

HEATHER PALAZZO

#2018-05

LICENSE #7270

**CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER**

**WHEREAS**, Heather Palazzo 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"); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to a self-report received resulting in an administrative complaint filed by the Board, Ms. Palazzo had a disciplinary matter pending in another state at the time of licensure renewal in Louisiana and failed to disclose the information on her online licensure renewal application which was submitted on May 14, 2017. Heather Palazzo has indicated her desire to resolve this matter through a Consent Agreement and Order as provided for in Rule No. 501(D) of the board's Rules and Regulations and LA R.S. 49:955(D) of the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act; and

**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**, Heather Palazzo 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 Practice Act, or any other law or statute;

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

**WHEREAS**, Heather Palazzo has violated her professional and ethical duty as set forth in LA R.S. 37:2662 (A)(2) by obtaining the license by means of fraud, misrepresentation or concealment of material facts, and in the code of ethics adopted and published by the Board as follows:

**701(E)(4)(b)** "Individuals shall not engage in dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation."

**WHEREAS**, Heather Palazzo has violated her professional and ethical duty as set forth in LA R.S. 37:2662 (A)(5), by engaging in unprofessional conduct, as defined by the rules established by the board, and has violated the code of ethics adopted and published by the board as follows:

**701(E)(4)** "Individuals shall honor their responsibilities to the professions and their relationships with colleagues, students, and members of other professions and disciplines. Individuals shall uphold the dignity and autonomy of the professions, maintain harmonious interprofessional and intraprofessional relationships, and accept the professions' self-imposed standards."

**WHEREAS**, Heather Palazzo has violated her professional and ethical duty as set forth in LA R.S. 37:2662 (A)(6) by violating any lawful order, rule or regulation rendered or adopted by the board.

**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 Heather Palazzo accepts the following administrative action which is a final decision pursuant to the LA R.S. 49:958:

1. Within ninety (90) days of the date all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order, Heather Palazzo shall successfully complete an open book examination on the Louisiana Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act, the Rules and Regulations, and Ethical Questions. Heather Palazzo shall pay all costs associated with the open book examination.
2. Heather Palazzo 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 Heather Palazzo'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** for violation of the above referenced sections of the Louisiana Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act and the Rules and Regulations is a matter of public record.

Licensee 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, the Louisiana Speech-Language-Hearing Association (LSHA), American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), Speech Pathologists and Audiologists in Louisiana Schools (SPALS), Louisiana Department of Education, and the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB).

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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 the 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2017

Stephen J. Hansen  
Chair  
Debra L. Lefort  
Vice Chair

Jammy Lefort  
Secretary-Treasurer

IN WITNESS HEREOF, Heather Palazzo, has entered into this Consent Agreement and Order and executed same at Orleans Parish, Louisiana, on this 30<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2017.

Heather Palazzo  
Heather Palazzo

Kaci Fayal  
Notary ID # 140573

**NOTARIZATION REQUIRED**