BEFORE THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY

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In the Matter of: STEVEN THOMAS.

Licensed Massage Therapist Nevada License No. NVMT.1348

Respondent.

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Case No. NVMT-C-24077

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER

WHEREAS on May 7, 2025, the administrative hearing held relative to the Complaint in the above-captioned matter having come before Nevada State Board of Massage therapy ("Board"), and the Board being fully apprised in the premises, and good cause appearing, the Board issued the following findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order.

I. INTRODUCTION

- Board members present were Paula Wilber, Vice Chair, Secretary-Treasurer Jenn Ty, Alan Kite-Swinden, Rosemarie Mueller, Bill Schoen, John Teng, Stephanie Tsanas, and Sgt. Evan Fincher, LVMPD Advisory Member.
- Joseph Peter Ostunio, Deputy Attorney General, was present and appeared as the prosecutor for the Board. Board General Counsel Colleen Platt was present and served as Board counsel.
- 3. Steven Thomas ("Respondent") did not appear at the disciplinary hearing but was duly notified by certified mail in compliance with NRS 241.0333.

II. JURISDICTION

4. RESPONDENT is licensed by the Board as a massage therapist, pursuant

to the provisions of Nevada Revised Statutes and Nevada Administrative Code chapters 640C, license no. 12355.

 RESPONDENT is subject to the jurisdiction of the Board and the provisions of NRS Chapter 640C and NAC Chapter 640C.

III. FINDINGS OF FACT

- 6. On or about September 7, 2024, while working at the MGM Grand Spa, RESPONDENT performed a massage on a female client, E.M. During said massage, THOMAS digitally penetrated her vagina with his fingers.
- 7. As a result of these actions, RESPONDENT was arrested for Sexual Assault (LLV240900027082)
- 8. On or about February 6, 2025, RESONDENT pled guilty to a gross misdemeanor of open or gross lewdness as part of a plea agreement that will be reduced to a conviction of misdemeanor battery should RESPONDENT successfully complete his probation, which will include mandatory registration as a sex offender.
- 9. RESPONDENT is currently scheduled to be sentenced for the offense on or about May 8, 2025. (Case No. C-25-388856-1).

IV. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 10. Respondent, as evidenced by his actions as described above, is found by a preponderance of evidence to having failed to respect and maintain a client's right to privacy as per NAC 640C.410(1)(b)(13).
- 11. Respondent, as evidenced by his actions as described above, is found by a preponderance of evidence to have engaged in sexual contact with a client as per NAC 640C.410(1)(b)(18).
- 12. Respondent, as evidenced by his actions as described above, is found by a preponderance of evidence to have engaged in unprofessional conduct with a client

outside of the professional boundaries considered acceptable in the profession as per NAC 640C.410(1)(b)(28).

- 13. Respondent, as evidenced by his actions as described above, is found by a preponderance of evidence to have engaged in violating multiple provisions of NRS 640C as per NRS 640C(2).
- 14. Respondent, as evidenced by his actions as described above, is found by a preponderance of evidence to have engaged in and/or soliciting sexual activity during the course of practicing massage therapy, with or without the consent of the person, as per NRS 640C.700(4).
- 15. Respondent, as evidenced by his actions as described above, is found by a preponderance of evidence to have engaged in unethical and/or unprofessional conduct as per NRS 640C700(9).
- 16. 15. Respondent, as evidenced by his actions as described above, is found by a preponderance of evidence to have engaged in failing to properly drape client as per NAC 640C.340

V. ORDER

- 17. Having found by a preponderance of the evidence the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law set forth herein and having unanimously voted, THE BOARD HEREBY ORDERS:
- 18. Respondent's Board license, NVMT.12355, is hereby <u>revoked</u> and Respondent is ineligible to apply for new licensure for a minimum of ten (10) years from the date of this Order.
- 19. Respondent shall pay administrative fines in the amount of \$5,000 for violations 2 and 4, fines of \$1,000 for violations 1, 3, 5, and 6 for a total administrative fine of \$14,000 to be paid within five (5) years from the date of this Order.

- 20. Respondent shall partially reimburse the Board for investigation and prosecution costs in this matter, in an amount not to exceed \$1,500. This amount shall be paid within five (5) years from the date of this Order.
- 21. Failure of Respondent to pay the above ordered fines and cost reimbursement within the specified time period could result in Respondent being issued an Order to Appear and Show Cause from the Board who may then impose additional discipline on Respondent after hearing on the matter.

Dated this _____ day of June 2025.

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY

Paula Wilber, Vice Chair

Submitted by: AARON D. FORD Nevada Attorney General's Office

Is (Joseph Peter Ostunio, Esq.

Joseph Peter Ostunio, Esq. Deputy Attorney General



Elisabeth D. Barnard / APPEAL

From Steven Thomas

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Date Fri 6/20/2025 3:07 PM

To Nevada Board of Massage Therapists <nvmassagebd@lmt.nv.gov>

WARNING - This email originated from outside the State of Nevada. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

I am appealing the fines of me STEVEN THOMAS LMT 1348.

i am sending all licenses i have in the mail. right after i send this e mail .I threw out my current massage license after i meant with my lawyer knowing i would never massage again . I am sorry for the misunderstanding about the communication between us . I have been solely focus on my case with the courts. Spending all my money on my lawyer bills and just getting by. I never once intend to massage again . I have to find a new career . I talk to some one over the phone before and told them that i would deal with the massage board after my sentencing . which is JULY 10TH. Thank you for your time on this manner and understanding, Steven Thomas



Re: Automatic reply: Elisabeth D. Barnard / APPEAL

From Steven Thomas

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Date Fri 6/20/2025 3:35 PM

To Nevada Board of Massage Therapists <nvmassagebd@lmt.nv.gov>

WARNING - This email originated from outside the State of Nevada. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Elizabeth D Barnard,

I am sending all of my massage license that I have. I have thrown out the current license I had. If I ever (which I would never do) massage again, fine me then, not now. You want to make sure I would never massage again, well I will never massage again I promise. I plead guilty under the advisement of my lawyer. I have an excellent work history, If you would like to hear from my coworkers, about my character and work ethic, I can provide names and numbers. Thank you for your time.