

LOUISIANA PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF

PHILIPPE VEETERS

(LOUISIANA P. T. LICENSE NO. 01437F)

Confidential Complaint Nos. 2019-I-003,
2019-I-010, 2019-I-021, 2019-I-022,
2019-I-023, 2019-I-024, 2019-I-027, and
2019-I-032

CONSENT AGREEMENT TO PERMANENT REVOCATION AND BOARD ORDER

NOW COME, Philippe Veeters (Louisiana Physical Therapist License No. 01437F) and the LOUISIANA PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD (hereinafter "Board"), appearing through its Chairman, JUDITH HALVERSON, who, in order to completely and finally settle the captioned complaints against Phillippe Veeters, agree as follows:

1.

Philippe Veeters was licensed by the Board as a physical therapist in the State of Louisiana, pursuant to the Louisiana Physical Therapy Act, La. R.S. 37:2401-2424 et seq., as evidenced by Louisiana Physical Therapist License No. 01437F.

2.

Philippe Veeters was arrested in the Parish of East Baton Rouge on arrest warrant numbers, W02-19-0061; W02-19-0062; W03-19-0133; W03-19-0189; W03-19-0190; W03-19-190; W03-19-0196; W03-19-0197; W04-19-022; and W04-19-0023, each arrest involving alleged sexual battery, and in one case simple battery, of physical therapy patients.

3.

The Louisiana Physical Therapy Board received complaints from alleged sexual abuse victims or other alleged victims of professional misconduct by Philippe Veeters upon physical therapy patients during the course of physical therapy treatment by Veeters in Complaint Nos. 2019-I-003, 2019-I-010, 2019-I-021, 2019-I-022, 2019-I-023, 2019-I-024, 2019-I-027, and 2019-I-032, and began to investigate whether or not Philippe Veeters had violated:

a. La. R.S. 37:2420A(1): Practiced physical therapy in violation of the provisions of this Chapter, the rules of the board, or standards of practice.

b. La. R.S. 37:2420A(7): Been found guilty of unprofessional conduct or sexual misconduct, including but not limited to departure from, or failure to conform to, the minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing physical therapy practice, in which proceeding actual injury to a patient need not be established.

c. LAC46:LIV.341(A): A written record of physical therapy treatment shall be maintained for each patient. A complete record shall include written documentation of prescription or referral (if such exists), initial evaluation, treatment(s) provided, PT/PTA conferences, progress notes, reevaluations or reassessments, and patient status at discharge all as defined in §123, particularly §341(2), (3), (4), (5) and (7).

d. LAC46:LIV.345B(1)(a): failure to use sound professional judgment;

e. LAC46:LIV.345B(1)(e): providing treatment interventions that are not warranted by the patient's condition or continuing treatment beyond the point of reasonable benefit to the patient;

f. LAC46:LIV.345B(3): failing to create or maintain medical record—a licensee shall create and maintain adequate and legible patient records.

g. LAC46:LIV.345B(4)(b): exercise influence over a patient in such a manner as to abuse or exploit the physical therapy provider/patient or client relationship for the purpose of securing personal compensation, gratification, gain or benefit of any kind or type, unrelated to the provision of physical therapy services;

h. LAC46:LIV.345B(5): sexual misconduct—inappropriate sexual or intimate conduct, includes, but is not limited to sexual intimacy, contact, exposure, gratification, abuse, exploitation or other sexual behavior with or in the presence of a patient or any other individual in connection to the licensee's practice of physical therapy regardless of consent by the patient. Such conduct may be verbal, physical, visual, written or electronic, or it may consist of expressions of thoughts, feelings or gestures that are sexual or reasonably may be construed by a patient or other individual as sexual or which may reasonably be interpreted as intended for the sexual arousal or gratification of the practitioner, the patient, or another individual. Sexual misconduct between a licensee and a former patient after termination of the therapist-patient relationship may also constitute unprofessional conduct if the sexual misconduct is a result of the exploitation of trust, knowledge, influence or emotions derived from the professional relationship;

i. LAC46:LIV.345B(6): disruptive behavior—aberrant behavior, including but not limited to harassment, sexual or otherwise, manifested through personal interaction with employees, co-workers, hospital personnel, health care professionals, patients, family members or others, which interferes with patient care or could reasonably be expected to interfere with the process of delivering quality care or jeopardizing patient safety;

j. LAC46:LIV.345B(8): engaging in conduct which results in an arrest and the initiation of criminal prosecution, even if criminal charges are eventually lessened or dropped,

when the conduct leading to the arrest can be verified and constitutes behavior which could put the person or property of patients at risk of harm from a treating licensee;

k. Code of Ethics Principle #1 (made applicable through La. R.S. 37:2405B(14)): Physical therapists shall respect the inherent dignity and rights of all individuals, particularly

1A: Physical therapists shall act in a respectful manner toward each person regardless of age, gender, race, nationality, religion, ethnicity, social or economic status, sexual orientation, health condition, or disability; and

l. Code of Ethics Principle #2 (made applicable through La. R.S. 2405B(14): Physical therapists shall be trustworthy and compassionate in addressing the rights and needs of patients/clients, particularly 2A, 2C and 2D:

2A. Physical therapists shall adhere to the core values of the profession and shall act in the best interests of patients/clients over the interests of the physical therapist.

2C. Physical therapists shall provide the information necessary to allow patients or their surrogates to make informed decisions about physical therapy care or participation in clinical research.

2D. Physical therapists shall collaborate with patients/clients to empower them in decisions about their health care.

in relation to alleged sexual misconduct and professional misconduct against seven physical therapy patients.

4.

These are not the first disciplinary actions against Philippe Veeters for related professional misconduct and sexual misconduct of a physical therapy patient. See Consent Order for Complaint No. 2018-I-014.

5.

The complaints are corroborated not only by the number and similarity of these complaints, and the criminal arrests involving the same conduct, but also by a letter of concern on January 18, 2014 regarding a 2012 complaint and a consent agreement in December of 2018, both involving similar unprofessional behavior and sexual misconduct with patients.

6.

As the Consent Order in Complaint No. 2018 -I-014 recited:

“...an earlier Complaint (#2012-I-020) related to the manner in which Mr. Veeters performed this [pelvic] test on patient J. K. The Investigative Committee on the earlier complaint did not recommend disciplinary action, but on January 18, 2014, placed Mr. Veeters on notice that the information reviewed by the Committee

indicated that some of the components of his interactions with J. K. were ill-advised, showed poor clinical judgment and were perceived by the patient as possibly inappropriate. The notice provided Mr. Veeters the opportunity to meet with that Committee for the Committee to provide instruction and recommendations, including, but not limited to, obtaining consent prior to performing such tests, educating patients on tests involving the pubic region, taking safety and privacy measures such as using gloves, providing covering for the patients and having another individual in the room when performing such tests, especially with female patients.”

7.

The Consent Order in Complaint No. 2018-I-014 describes the facts found by the Board of that complaint as follows:

“The Board received a complaint against Mr. Veeters on June 7, 2018 from L. J., a female patient, whose initial visit with Mr. Veeters had occurred earlier that same date. L. J., with a family history of scoliosis, had made an appointment with Mr. Veeters for a physical therapy assessment of a curvature of her spine in the mid back region. The complaint asserted that, during the examination, Mr. Veeters had L. J. lay on her back on the table and pulled up her dress to press on side areas outside of L. J.’s underwear. The complaint also asserted that suddenly, without notice, explanation, obtaining a consent or having anyone in the room, Mr. Veeters pulled down L. J.’s underwear and, with an un-gloved hand, pushed on the left side of the patient’s labia in contact with pubic hair.”

8.

As noted on page 1 of the Consent Order, Philippe Veeters acknowledged to the Investigative Committee “that he had not obtained L. J.’s confirmed verbal assent prior to palpating the pubic region.” The Board Committee “concluded that L. J.’s presenting complaints did not provide Mr. Veeters with a clinical basis to assess or palpate L. J.’s pubic region and, accordingly concluded that the procedure was clinically unnecessary and needlessly invasive of the patient’s privacy.”

9.

The further opinion of the Board and Committee was that:

- a. A pelvic symphysis test should not have been performed for a sacroiliac joint dysfunction and that the patient had no documented leg length discrepancy.

- b. If there had been a clinical basis for making an assessment of the pubic symphysis, the patient should have been told in advance the nature of the condition being assessed, given a description of the proposed procedure, obtained a consent, and the patient should have been advised as to the findings of the procedure.
- c. The patient should have been draped appropriately and the assessment made over the patient's undergarments and in the presence of another individual.
- d. Philippe Veeters' documentation of the patient's visit failed to record information of specific tests and measures which Philippe Veeters claimed to have performed.
- e. Philippe Veeters, in his evaluation of patient L. J., failed to adhere to appropriate standards of physical therapy practice.

10.

Rather than facing a hearing on those charges, Philippe Veeters signed a Consent Order, which imposed sanctions for the following violations: La. R.S. 37:2420A(7); LAC46:LIV.345B, 373A, 345B(1)(a), 345B(4)(b), 345B(5), 345B(6), 373A(6), 373A(8), 341A(2); and Code of Ethics Principle Nos. 2, 2C, and 1, in Complaint No. 2018-I-014.

11.

The pending complaints serve as evidence of Philippe Veeters' disregard of the earlier instructions and the standards of the practice of physical therapy.

12.

A minimum nine month license suspension was imposed which suspension had the possibility of ending as early as September of 2019, provided all conditions of the Consent Order in Complaint No. 2018-I-014 were satisfied.

13.

The Consent Order in Complaint No. 2018-I-014 noted that Philippe Veeters' return to practice has the potential for violating the public health, safety and welfare so as to possibly call for emergency action.

14.

By letters dated July 31, 2019 and August 2, 2019, Philippe Veeters was offered the opportunity to participate in Informal Hearing Conferences in each of the pending complaints currently under investigation, the informal hearing conferences scheduled for August 12, 2019.

15.

Philippe Veeters, in writing, waived his right to informal hearing conferences in Complaint Nos. 2019-I-003, 2019-I-010, 2019-I-021, 2019-I-022, 2019-I-023, and 2019-I-024, and did not appear on August 12, 2019, for informal hearing conference in Complaint No. 2019-I-027.

16.

The parties agree that Philippe Veeters has waived his right to informal hearing conferences for these complaints, as required by La. R.S. 49:961C and LAC 46:LIV.381A(2), in each of the seven complaints enumerated above.

17.

The parties believed that there could be a possibility of more criminal activity and criminal charges being filed against Philippe Veeters, as well as more complaints lodged with the Board against Philippe Veeters, all alleging similar violations of criminal law and/or Board law and rules.

18.

On or about November 5, 2019, the Board did in fact receive an additional complaint of the same type of conduct with a female physical therapy patient, which complaint was assigned Complaint No. 2019-I-032.

19.

On or about November 7, 2019, a Bill of Information was filed against Philippe A. Veeters in the 19th Judicial District Court, Parish of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana, charging Philippe Veeters with 7 counts of sexual battery in violation of La. R.S. 14:43.1, the counts charged to have occurred between the dates of November 10, 2015 and August 20, 2018, *State of Louisiana v. Philippe A. Veeters*, 19th Judicial District Court, Parish of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana, No. DC-19-07235.

20.

On or about March 5, 2020, the Bill of Information in No. DC-19-07235 was amended to add an eighth count of sexual battery, in violation of La. R.S. 14:43.1, this eighth count charged to have occurred on or about June 22, 2017.

21.

All charges involved allegations of sexual battery by Philippe Veeters, a physical therapist, occurring during purported physical therapy treatment by Philippe Veeters on these seven female physical therapy patients.

22.

The criminal charges were not dissimilar to and were in fact believed to be similar to the complaint filed with this Board by L.J. in Complaint No. 2018-I-014.

23.

On or about September 13, 2019, Phillippe A. Veeters entered an Interim Consent Order with the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board in Confidential Complaint Nos. 2019-I-013, 2019-I-010, 2019-I-022, 2019-I-023, 2019-I-024 and 2019-I-027. The Interim Consent Order was approved by the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board on September 29, 2019.

24.

In the Interim Consent Order, Phillippe A. Veeters agreed to the following:

a. The Louisiana Physical Therapist License No. 01437F of PHILIPPE VEETERS, currently under suspension in the Consent Order in Complaint No. 2018-I-014, is continued and converted to an indefinite suspension of the Louisiana Physical Therapist License No. 01437F of PHILIPPE VEETERS.

b. Before PHILIPPE VEETERS may apply for reinstatement of his Louisiana Physical Therapist License No. 01437F, the following conditions must be met:

(1) All criminal cases against PHILIPPE VEETERS in the Nineteenth Judicial District Court resulting from the arrests noted above and any other similar arrests or criminal charges related to physical therapy patients must be concluded, including but not limited to those involving Arrest Nos. W02-19-0061; W02-19-0062; W03-19-0133; W03-19-0189; W03-19-0190; W03-19-190; W03-19-0196; W03-19-0197; W04-19-022; and W04-19-0023,

(2) PHILIPPE VEETERS must have no criminal charges or civil proceedings pending against him in any jurisdiction related to sexual misconduct or other misconduct in his treatment of physical therapy patients;

(3) PHILIPPE VEETERS must have served all sentences arising from any criminal cases relating to patient care, including probation, parole and/or supervised release;

(4) The matters before the Board under investigation in Complaint Nos. 2019-I-003, 2019-I-010, 2019-I-021, 2019-I-022, 2019-I-023, 2019-I-024, and 2019-I-027 and/or any other complaint filed with the Board against PHILIPPE VEETERS must be concluded;

(5) All the conditions for license reinstatement set forth in Consent Order in No. 2018-I-014 must be met;

(6) PHILIPPE VEETERS must undergo an inpatient psychosexual evaluation and an addictive disease evaluation at a facility approved by the Board;

(7) PHILIPPE VEETERS must authorize and cause a written report of said evaluations to be submitted to the Board, to include the entire evaluation reports including diagnosis, course of treatment, prescribed or recommended treatment, prognosis, and professional opinion as to PHILIPPE VEETERS' capability of practicing as a physical therapist with reasonable skill and safety to patients;

(8) PHILIPPE VEETERS must have submitted all pages of this Interim Consent Agreement and Order to the evaluators prior to the start of the evaluations in order for the evaluations to be deemed valid;

(9) Upon receipt of an evaluation report, PHILIPPE VEETERS must immediately submit to all recommendations thereafter of the evaluators and cause to have submitted to the Board evidence of continued compliance with all recommendations by the evaluators; and

(10) If the evaluations give any treatment recommendations or findings to warrant concern for patient safety, PHILIPPE VEETERS must meet with Board Member on the Investigative Committee and demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board Compliant Investigator that PHILIPPE VEETERS poses no danger to the practice as a Physical Therapist or to the public and that PHILIPPE VEETERS can safely and competently perform the duties of a physical therapist, including without unprofessional conduct or sexual misconduct toward any patient.

c. The parties further agree that should PHILIPPE VEETERS be found guilty of, enter a guilty plea, or a plea of *nolo contendere*, or any other plea under La. C.Cr.P. art. 893 or 894 to any criminal offense relating to patient care in any matter in the Nineteenth Judicial District Court or in any other jurisdiction or in any case involving sexual battery or sexual misconduct and/or other harm to or misconduct with a physical therapy patient, Louisiana Physical Therapy License No. 01437F belonging to PHILIPPE VEETERS will be automatically revoked, PHILIPPE VEETERS hereby waiving his right to informal conference, to notice of hearing, to a final administrative hearing, and to judicial review of the revocation. (emphasis supplied)

25.

The criminal cases were set for trial in East Baton Rouge Parish for September 12, 2022.

26.

On September 12, 2022, the State of Louisiana amended the Bill of Information in No. DC-19-07235, *State of Louisiana v. Philippe A. Veeters* to 6 counts of second degree battery of a female physical therapy patient in violation of La. R.S. 14:34.1. (Counts 6 and 7 of the original Bill of Information filed November 7, 2019 were dismissed.)

27.

On September 12, 2022, in Open Court in the 19th Judicial District Court, Parish of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana, No. DC-19-07235, *State of Louisiana v. Philippe A. Veeters*,

Philippe A. Veeters signed Waiver of Rights, Plea of Guilty to 6 counts of second degree battery of female physical therapy patients in violation of La. R.S. 14:34.1.

28.

In the signed “Waiver of Rights – Plea of Guilty”, Philippe A. Veeters pled guilty to 6 counts of second degree battery of female physical therapy patients in violation of La. R.S. 14:34.1, and agreed to the following sentence:

Sentence: 6 (six) years in the Department of Corrections, credit for time served, suspend balance and place on active supervised probation with the Louisiana Department of Probation and Parole for 3 years. Pursuant to this plea the defendant shall comply with the following conditions:

Conditions:

1. Defendant will prepare a handwritten letter that will be forwarded to the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board that provides that, on or about September 12, 2022, or upon the acceptance of the plea by the Court on the record, effective immediately thereafter, he is voluntarily, immediately, irrevocably, and permanently surrendering his license and certifications with the State of Louisiana to work for in any capacity or practice within the physical therapy field;
2. The defendant waives his right to informal conference, notice of hearing, a formal administrative hearing, and/or judicial review of a revocation by the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board and agrees not to appeal or challenge any decision of the Board or to reapply for such license;
3. Defendant agrees that he will not practice as a physical therapist, a physical therapy assistant, a physical therapy technician or work in any capacity inside of a physical therapy clinic, facility, or on any premises where physical therapy is furnished in any fashion;
4. Defendant agrees he will not engage in direct patient care in any other capacity;
5. Defendant agrees that since the State of Louisiana is amending the offense to a non-sex offense felony for purposes of this negotiated plea and sentence between the parties, that he will not seek an expungement of these offenses pursuant to C. Cr. Proc. Art 978 or any other provisions of law because the facts arose out of allegations of a La. R.S. 15 :541 sex offense;
6. No early termination of probation;
7. No contact with the victims of these offenses or their family members, directly or through a third party;

8. Comply with protective orders issued on behalf of the victims pursuant to the sentencing of this Court;
9. Do not engage in or be involved in any business involving direct patient care;
10. Obtain permission from probation and parole officer prior to traveling;
11. Obtain a psycho-sexual evaluation and comply with any treatment. Permit the State of Louisiana to forward prior to the evaluation copies of police records concerning the victims of these offenses for review and consideration by the evaluator before the evaluation of the defendant and any recommendations provided. At the conclusion of the evaluation the evaluator is to provide to the Court or the Department of Corrections the recommendations based on the evaluation. The defendant is to comply with any and all recommendations of the evaluator;
12. Comply with all conditions outlined by the Department of Probation and Parole;
13. Any of the following conditions imposed by the Court:
 - a. Comply with La. C. Cr. Procedure Article 895;
 - b. Pay a supervision fee of \$65 a month to the Louisiana Department of Probation and Parole;
 - c. Pay a fine of \$5,000.00;
 - d. Pay court cost of \$404.75

29.

The transcript of the plea of September 12, 2022, in fact shows on pages 15 – 16 thereof that Philippe Veeters “agree[d] to permanently give up your physical therapy license and prepare a letter to the Physical Therapy Board that you are, effectively, immediately, surrendering your license and that you will not seek to appeal or challenge any decision that the Therapy Board makes or reapply for a physical therapy license.” Philippe Veeters further agreed that he would “not practice as a physical therapist, a physical therapist assistant, a physical therapy technician, or work in any capacity inside a physical therapy, facility, or any premises where physical therapy is furnished.” (See Transcript of September 12, 2022, p. 16, certified copy attached hereto as Exhibit A.)

30.

As the transcript of the sentencing of September 13, 2022 reflects, at pp. 15-16 thereof, the Court stated:

“All right. Mr. Veeters, obviously, you have had a tremendous negative impact on the victims and not only violating their trust but your conduct negatively impacted the public view of your profession. I do not think that any sentence that I could impose could repair the damage that you have caused to the victims but based on the circumstances of this case and discussions with your attorney and the State, I believe that the sentence that has been agreed upon is the appropriate sentence and will certainly protect the public from any actions of you in the future by prohibiting you from being involved in any patient care, whether as a physical therapist or otherwise and hopefully the sentence and the sentencing today will provide some amount of closure for the victims.”

31.

The Court sentenced Philippe Veeters as follows:

“So as to count one on the Bill of Information, it is the sentence of the Court that the defendant is sentenced to six years at hard labor in the custody of the Department of Corrections, with credit for time served. The sentence is suspended and Mr. Veeters is placed on active supervised probation for a period of three years under the following terms and conditions. First, you must comply with all provisions of Article 895 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. You must pay a \$65 per month fee to the probation and parole department to help defer the cost of supervision. You will agree to a permanent revocation of your license to practice physical therapy in the State of Louisiana and will prepare today, a handwritten letter to the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board that the revocation of your license is voluntary, permanent, immediate, and irrevocable. In that letter you will waive your right to an informal conference, a notice of hearing, a final administrative hearing, and/or judicial review of the revocation of your license by the Physical Therapy Board and you will agree not to appeal or challenge that decision or reapply for a physical therapy license. Fifth, you shall not practice as a physical therapist, a physical therapist assistant, a physical therapy technician, or work in any capacity inside of a physical therapy clinic, facility, or any premises where physical therapy is furnished in any fashion. Sixth, you will not engage in direct patient care in any capacity. Seventh, you will not engage in or be involved in any business involving direct patient care. Eighth, you will not seek the early termination of your probation. Ninth, you will agree not to seek expungement under Code of Criminal Procedure Article 978 or any other law, of the arrest or any other information related to the offenses with which you are charged or to which you have pled guilty sense the facts arose out of allegations of a sex offense is defined in Revised Statute 15 Section 541. Tenth, you will not have any contact with the victims or their families, either directly or through a third party and you will execute the protective orders to that effect. In a minute I am going to go through the terms

of those protective orders so it is crystal clear to you as to what you are allowed to do and not allowed to do more importantly. Eleventh, you will obtain permission from your probation officer prior to any out of state travel. Twelfth, you will obtain a psycho-sexual evaluation and comply with any treatment recommendations. With regard to the psycho-sexual evaluation, you will authorize the State of Louisiana to forward prior to the evaluation, copies of records from the victims to be reviewed and considered by the evaluator before he actually performs the evaluation and you will agree that the evaluator will provide to the Court and the probation office a copy of the evaluation and any recommendations. Thirteenth, you will also comply with any other conditions required by the probation and parole department. Fourteenth, you will pay a fine of \$5000 plus court cost. I am also going to order you to appear within 48 hours of today, so by the end of the day on Thursday. By close of business on Thursday you are to report to the Probation and Parole Office and sign up with them. On the protective orders, there is one protective order for each of the six victims. So Mr. Veeters, the protective order has a number of provisions that apply and some that do not. The ones that apply I have initialed. Those sections apply to you. I am not convinced under the terms of the protective order that you are prohibited from owning a firearm but just to cover that, there is another additional condition of probation, if the protective order does not already prevent you from carrying a firearm or possessing a firearm, I will order that you not possess a firearm during the term of your probation. But anyway, the protective orders apply to each. There is one for each of the victims in this case. The same terms apply on each one and I am just going to go through those so it is clear to you and to everyone what the protective orders prohibit you from doing. They will also be filed with the Supreme Court in the Protective Order Registry. So they will be public record. But first you are ordered not to abuse, harass, assault, stalk, follow, track, monitor, or threaten the protected person. You are not to contact the protected person personally or through a third party by any means, whether it be by some sort of public posting, in writing, by telephone, or any electronic means like text message, email, messaging, or any other social media communication. You are not to go within a hundred yards of the protected person. You are not to contact the protected person's immediate family, directly or through a third party in any manner by public posting, writing, telephone, or any electronic means like text message, email, messaging, or any other social media communication. You are not to go within a hundred yards of the residence or household of the protected person. You are not to go to the protected person's school or the protected person's place of employment." (Transcript of Sentencing, September 13, 2022, certified copy attached as Exhibit B.)

32.

Philippe Veeters indicated he "understood." See Exhibit B, page 21.

33.

The guilty plea activated paragraph 18c of the Interim Consent Agreement in Complaint Nos. 2019-I-003, 2019-I-010, 2019-I-021, 2019-I-022, 2019-I-023, 2019-I-024 and 2019-I-027 and Board Order of September of 2019 and automatically revoked Louisiana Physical Therapist License No. 01437F belonging to Philippe Veeters. As of September 12, 2022, the physical therapy license of Philippe Veeters in the State of Louisiana is automatically revoked and Philippe Veeters is prohibited from practicing physical therapy in the State of Louisiana in any form, whether as a physical therapist, a physical therapy assistant, a physical therapy technician or working in a physical therapy clinic or facility or in any facility where physical therapy services are rendered in any form.

34.

When the matter came before the Court on September 13, 2022, for Sentencing, the accused was present in court represented by counsel. Two victim impact statements were heard in open court. The sentence was the same on the other 5 counts, Counts 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8. See Exhibit B, pp. 23-25.

35.

On or about September 14, 2022, the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board received a handwritten letter from Philippe Veeters, 1912 S. Augusta Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, providing as follows:

“To The PT Board:

“I am voluntarily, immediately, irrevocably, and permanently surrendering my license and certification with the State of Louisiana to work in any capacity or practice within the physical therapy field.

P Veeters
Philippe Veeters”

36.

The Board notes that the letter from Philippe Veeters did not contain the exact terms as reflected in the sentencing transcript of September 13, 2022 (Exhibit B) on pages 16-18 and underlined in paragraph 31 above.

37.

The Board and Philippe Veeters agree that his license to practice physical therapy in the State of Louisiana was permanently and automatically revoked effective September 13, 2022.

38.

The Board accepts the permanent and automatic revocation of Philippe Veeters physical therapy license in the State of Louisiana, such that his physical therapist license is permanently and automatically revoked effective September 13, 2022.

39.

The Board and Philippe Veeters agree that Philippe Veeters is forever barred from working for in any capacity or practice within the physical therapy field.

40.

The Board and Philippe Veeters agree that Philippe Veeters will never again practice as a physical therapist, a physical therapist assistant, a physical therapist technician or work in any capacity inside of a physical therapy clinic, facility or on any premises where physical therapy is furnished in any fashion. Philippe Veeters is permanently forbidden from engaging in direct patient care in any capacity.

41.

The Board and Philippe Veeters agree that Philippe Veeters will never apply for a physical therapist license or any form of license related to the practice of physical therapy in Louisiana or any other state in the United States or in any other country.

42.

The Board and Philippe Veeters agree that Philippe Veeters violated the following statutes and rules regarding the practice of physical therapy:

a. La. R.S. 37:2420A(1): Practiced physical therapy in violation of the provisions of this Chapter, the rules of the board, or standards of practice;

b. La. R.S. 37:2420A(7): Been found guilty of unprofessional conduct..., including but not limited to departure from, or failure to conform to, the minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing physical therapy practice, in which proceeding actual injury to a patient need not be established;

c. LAC46:LIV.345B(1)(a): failure to use sound professional judgment;

d. Code of Ethics Principle #1 (made applicable through La. R.S. 37:2405B(14)): Physical therapists shall respect the inherent dignity and rights of all individuals, particularly

1A: Physical therapists shall act in a respectful manner toward each person regardless of age, gender, race, nationality, religion, ethnicity, social or economic status, sexual orientation, health condition, or disability;

e. Code of Ethics Principle #2 (made applicable through La. R.S. 2405B(14): Physical therapists shall be trustworthy and compassionate in addressing the rights and needs of patients/clients, particularly 2A, 2C and 2D:

2A. Physical therapists shall adhere to the core values of the profession and shall act in the best interests of patients/clients over the interests of the physical therapist.

2C. Physical therapists shall provide the information necessary to allow patients or their surrogates to make informed decisions about physical therapy care or participation in clinical research.

2D. Physical therapists shall collaborate with patients/clients to empower them in decisions about their health care; and

f. La. R.S. 37:2420(A)(4) Been convicted of a felony in the courts of any state, district, territory, or country. Conviction, as used in this Paragraph, shall include a plea or verdict of guilty, an admission or finding of guilt, or a plea of nolo contendere.

43.

The Board believes, but Phillipe Veeters does not agree, that evidence also exists to support the following violations:

a. LAC46:LIV.341(A): A written record of physical therapy treatment shall be maintained for each patient. A complete record shall include written documentation of prescription or referral (if such exists), initial evaluation, treatment(s) provided, PT/PTA conferences, progress notes, reevaluations or reassessments, and patient status at discharge all as defined in §123, particularly §341(2), (3), (4), (5) and (7);

b. LAC46:LIV.345B(1)(e): providing treatment interventions that are not warranted by the patient's condition or continuing treatment beyond the point of reasonable benefit to the patient;

c. LAC46:LIV.345B(3): failing to create or maintain medical record—a licensee shall create and maintain adequate and legible patient records;

d. LAC46:LIV.345B(4)(b): exercise influence over a patient in such a manner as to abuse or exploit the physical therapy provider/patient or client relationship for the purpose of securing personal compensation, gratification, gain or benefit of any kind or type, unrelated to the provision of physical therapy services;

e. LAC46:LIV.345B(5): sexual misconduct—inappropriate sexual or intimate conduct, includes, but is not limited to sexual intimacy, contact, exposure, gratification, abuse, exploitation or other sexual behavior with or in the presence of a patient or any other individual in connection to the licensee’s practice of physical therapy regardless of consent by the patient. Such conduct may be verbal, physical, visual, written or electronic, or it may consist of expressions of thoughts, feelings or gestures that are sexual or reasonably may be construed by a patient or other individual as sexual or which may reasonably be interpreted as intended for the sexual arousal or gratification of the practitioner, the patient, or another individual. Sexual misconduct between a licensee and a former patient after termination of the therapist–patient relationship may also constitute unprofessional conduct if the sexual misconduct is a result of the exploitation of trust, knowledge, influence or emotions derived from the professional relationship;

f. LAC46:LIV.345B(6): disruptive behavior—aberrant behavior, including but not limited to harassment, sexual or otherwise, manifested through personal interaction with employees, co–workers, hospital personnel, health care professionals, patients, family members or others, which interferes with patient care or could reasonably be expected to interfere with the process of delivering quality care or jeopardizing patient safety; and

g. LAC46:LIV.345B(8): engaging in conduct which results in an arrest and the initiation of criminal prosecution, even if criminal charges are eventually lessened or dropped, when the conduct leading to the arrest can be verified and constitutes behavior which could put the person or property of patients at risk of harm from a treating licensee.

44.

Philippe Veeters shall pay the Board the sum of \$36,000.00 in partial reimbursement for legal and administrative expenses incurred in this matter, this amount may be paid in a lump sum, or monthly installments, if arranged in writing in advance with the Executive Director, over the first three years of his criminal probationary period. In the event that the Respondent reimburses the Board in monthly installments, payment shall be submitted to the Board Executive Director no later than the 15th day of the month.

45.

Philippe Veeters shall comply with La R.S. 37:2415.B. and notify the Executive Director of the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board in writing and prior to a change of residence to another country, state, or jurisdiction, until all costs are reimbursed as set forth herein.

46.

Philippe Veeters shall have reliable access to a computer, internet, and telephone. Philippe Veeters shall provide to the executive director their preferred telephone number and/or email address in writing for expedited communications regarding repayment/reimbursement of expenses within forty-eight (48) hours of signing the Consent Order. Philippe Veeters shall reply to Board

emails and telephone calls within four (4) hours of such communication. Philippe Veeters shall notify the Executive Director in writing of any change to their preferred telephone number and/or email address immediately upon change.

47.

Philippe Veeters declares that, before signing this Consent Order, he is of sound mind has carefully read this document, understands the contents, and freely consents to it as valid and binding upon him. He is aware of his right to a notice of hearing, to a formal administrative hearing and to judicial review of an administrative finding, and freely waives those rights. As is his right, he has been represented by legal counsel.

48.

Philippe Veeters acknowledges that this Consent Order only addresses the captioned complaints.

49.

Philippe Veeters authorizes the Investigating Board Member, Judith Halverson and legal counsel assisting the Investigating Board Member, to present this Consent Order to the full Board for its consideration and to fully disclose and discuss with the Board the nature and results of the investigation. Respondent waives any objection to such disclosures under La. R.S. 49:960 and expressly acknowledges that the disclosure of such information to the Board shall be without prejudice to the Investigative Board Member's authority to file a formal Administrative Complaint against him, or to the Board's capacity to adjudicate such Complaint, should the Board decline to approve this Consent Order. Should the Board decline to approve this Consent Order, Respondent retains all rights to due process including, but not limited to, his right to have notice of any allegations or charges against him, to administrative adjudication of such allegations or charges, and to a subsequent final decision rendered upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law.

50.

Philippe Veeters acknowledges that presentation to and consideration by the Board of this Consent Agreement, including presented documentary evidence and information, shall not unfairly or illegally prejudice or preclude the Board, or any of its members, from further participation in hearings or resolution to these proceedings.

51.

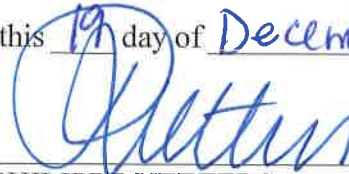
Respondent acknowledges that this Consent Order becomes effective immediately as set forth herein and otherwise only upon signature by the Board Secretary/Treasurer.

52.

Philippe Veeters acknowledges that all communication regarding compliance with and/or fulfillment of the requirements of this Consent Order shall be in writing between Respondent and

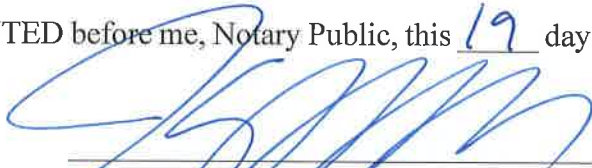
the Board Executive Director. No verbal communication shall be considered proof of compliance or commitment. Philippe Veeters acknowledges that it is the responsibility of Philippe Veeters to fully comply with the Consent Order and proactively communicate with the Board Executive Director.

SIGNED, AGREED TO AND ENTERED on this 19 day of December, 2022.



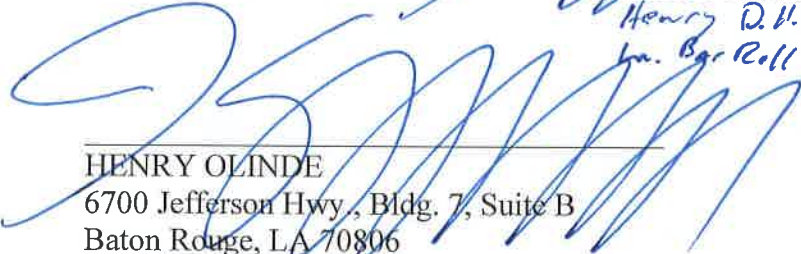
PHILIPPE VEETERS
(La. Physical Therapist License No. 01437F,
permanently revoked)
19129 S. Augusta Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70810

THUS EXECUTED before me, Notary Public, this 19 day of December,
2022.



NOTARY PUBLIC

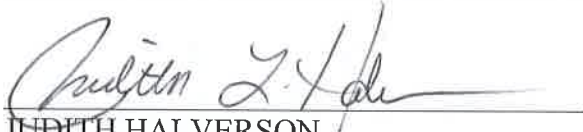
Henry D. Olinde, Jr.
La. Bar Roll # 19085



HENRY OLINDE
6700 Jefferson Hwy., Bldg. 7, Suite B
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
Phone: (225) 240-7297

Attorney for PHILIPPE VEETERS

SUBMITTED FOR BOARD APPROVAL BY:



JUDITH HALVERSON
Complaint Investigator

LOUISIANA PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF

PHILIPPE VEETERS

(LOUISIANA P. T. LICENSE NO. 01437F)

Confidential Complaint Nos. 2019-I-003,
2019-I-010, 2019-I-021, 2019-I-022,
2019-I-023, 2019-I-024, 2019-I-027, and
2019-I-032

BOARD ORDER

and

ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONSENT AGREEMENT
BY THE LOUISIANA PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD:

By a majority vote of the Board members voting in favor of the foregoing Consent Agreement at the Board meeting on 1/23/, 2023, the Board hereby adopts said Agreement, and makes it an Order of this Board.

FOR THE BOARD:


KAPHRYN BRITTAIN, Secretary/Treasurer

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19th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA

STATE OF LOUISIANA NO. DC-19-07235

VERSUS

PHILIPPE A VEETERS

DIVISION '3'

TRANSCRIPT OF THE SENTENCING IN THE ABOVE
CAPTIONED MATTER HEARD BY THE HONORABLE BRAD MYERS,
PRESIDING JUDGE, DIVISION '3,' ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2022

APPEARANCES:

ON BEHALF OF THE STATE:

SONYA CARDIA-PORTER

LAURA TRACY

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

ON BEHALF OF THE DEFENDANT:

SAMANTHAN GRIFFIN

PRIVATE COUNSEL

REPORTED BY:

KELBY PRICE DORSETT, CCR

CERTIFICATE NO. 2013007

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THE COURT:

This is docket number DC-19-07235, State versus Philippe Veeters. Mr. Veeters, will you come forward to this microphone up here. May I have your name and date of birth, please.

MR. VEETERS:

Philippe Veeters, June 30, 1964.

THE COURT:

All right. Mr. Veeters, I understand that there has been an agreement reached between you and the State of Louisiana with regards to these charges pending against you; is that correct, sir?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

All right. And that would call for you to plead guilty to six counts of second degree battery in exchange for a probated sentence; is that correct? Is that your understanding?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

In other words, I am going to put you on probation. I am going to impose a six year sentence,

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suspend any jail time and put you on probation for three years with terms and conditions that you have agreed to; is that correct?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

Okay. In order to do that I need to ask you some questions to make sure you understand what is going on and that you are freely and voluntarily entering your plea. So I am going to ask that you be placed under oath.

, after having first been duly sworn by the Official Court Reporter, did testify as follows:

MRS. CARDIA-PORTER:

Your Honor, prior to doing that, I just want the Record to reflect that I did amend the Bill of Information pursuant to the plea agreement to reflect the six counts of second degree battery.

THE COURT:

All right.

MRS. CARDIA-PORTER:

And I think he was going to waive formal arraignment of that amended Bill of Information.

MS. GRIFFIN:

Yes.

THE COURT:

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Okay. We will get to that in a minute. Mr. Veeters, how old are you, sir?

MR. VEETERS:

58, sir.

THE COURT:

And how far did you go in school?

MR. VEETERS:

Physical Therapy School, Bachelors Degree.

THE COURT:

And you have been practicing for the last number of years as a physical therapist; is that correct?

MR. VEETERS:

Correct.

THE COURT:

You understand, obviously, English and are able to read it and speak it and write it?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

Do you have any problems hearing me or understanding me today?

MR. VEETERS:

No, sir.

THE COURT:

Are you under the influence

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of any alcohol, drugs, or
prescription medication that
impacts your ability to understand
what is going on?

MR. VEETERS:

No, sir.

THE COURT:

Is there any other reason
that you can think of that would
cause you not to understand what
is going on today?

MR. VEETERS:

No, sir.

THE COURT:

You are represented by Ms.
Griffin; is that correct?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

And she has represented you
throughout the time that these
charges have been pending or at
least within the last two years?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

Have you had an opportunity
to discuss the charges that were
pending against you, as well as
your decision to change your plea
from not guilty to guilty?

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Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

Have you had the opportunity to ask her all of the questions that you want to ask her?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, I did.

THE COURT:

Has she answer those questions to your satisfaction?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, she did.

THE COURT:

Do you need any additional time to speak with Ms. Griffin to ask her any additional questions or talk to her about the decision to change your plea?

MR. VEETERS:

No, sir.

THE COURT:

Do you understand that Ms. Griffin can only give you advice and make recommendations but that the decision to plead guilty is yours and yours alone and has to be of your own free will?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

Are you satisfied with the representation, advice,

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recommendations, and the amount of time that Ms. Griffin has spent with you?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

Now the State has amended-- you were originally charged with eight counts of sexual battery. The State has agreed to dismiss two of those counts and amend the other six and has done so, to second degree battery. I understand that you are willing to waive formal reading of the amended charges and enter and be arraigned on those?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

Do you understand that the maximum penalty on each count of second degree battery is a potential term of imprisonment of eight years, a fine of \$2000 or both, absent this plea agreement? Do you understand that is the maximum penalty on each count?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

And you have in fact entered

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into a plea agreement with the State; is that right? A written agreement?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

Has Mr. Veeters signed that?

MS. GRIFFIN:

He has not. It was just provided to us, so we will complete it.

THE COURT:

All right. Why don't you go ahead and complete it and sign it and we will file that into the record.

MS. GRIFFIN:

Your Honor, Mr. Veeters has completed the plea agreement and I have signed it as his counsel and the State has signed as well.

THE COURT:

All right. Court will file the plea agreement into the record. Mr. Veeters, have you read the agreement?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

Have you had an opportunity to review the agreement and the decision to plea with your lawyer?

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MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

You understand what the agreement is and you have signed it?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

Other than this agreement, which sets forth the charges that you are going to be charged with and the fact that the Court is going to place you on probation with a number of terms and conditions; has anyone made any promises to you with regard to get you to change your plea from not guilty to guilty?

MR. VEETERS:

No, sir.

THE COURT:

Has anyone threatened or coerced you or offered any other inducements to you to pressure you into entering this plea?

MR. VEETERS:

No, sir.

THE COURT:

So I find that Mr. Veeters is competent and has a clear understanding of the charges and

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the possible penalties to which he is pleading. He has had the benefit of counsel before deciding to enter this guilty plea. Now Mr. Veeters, when you plead guilty, there are certain Constitutional rights that you have to waive and I need to make sure that you understand what those are and that you are freely and voluntarily waiving those. As you stand here today you are presumed innocent and you have the absolute right to plead not guilty and go to trial. Do you understand that?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

Do you understand that by pleading guilty, you are waiving the presumption of innocence, as well as your right to go to trial?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

If you were to go to trial, you would be entitled to a jury of six people and that jury would have to come to a unanimous decision as to a verdict. Other words, all six would have to agree

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to determine if you were guilty or not guilty or guilty of a lesser included offense. But by pleading guilty, you are waiving your right to a unanimous jury verdict; do you understand that?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

At the trial the State would have the burden of proving your guilt beyond a reasonable doubt but by pleading guilty you are waiving your right to have the State prove your guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. Do you understand that?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

At a trial the State would have to present evidence, including witnesses and documents in order to prove your guilt. You or your attorney would have the right to cross-examine and confront those witnesses but by pleading guilty you are waiving your right to cross-examine and confront any witnesses, as well as challenge any evidence the State would present at trial. Do you

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understand that?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

If you were to go to trial,
your right against self-
incrimination would remain intact.
In other words, you would not have
to testify if you chose not to do
so and no inference or presumption
could be drawn by the jury as to
the decision not to testify but by
pleading guilty you are waiving
your right against self-
incrimination. Do you understand
that?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

Also at a trial you would
have the right to call witnesses
and present evidence on your own
behalf. The Court would subpoena
those witnesses at no expense to
you but by pleading guilty you are
waiving your right to call
witnesses or present other
evidence in your defense. Do you
understand that?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

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into a plea agreement with the State; is that right? A written agreement?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

Has Mr. Veeters signed that?

MS. GRIFFIN:

He has not. It was just provided to us, so we will complete it.

THE COURT:

All right. Why don't you go ahead and complete it and sign it and we will file that into the record.

MS. GRIFFIN:

Your Honor, Mr. Veeters has completed the plea agreement and I have signed it as his counsel and the State has signed as well.

THE COURT:

All right. Court will file the plea agreement into the record. Mr. Veeters, have you read the agreement?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

Have you had an opportunity to review the agreement and the decision to plea with your lawyer?

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If you were to go to trial and were convicted, you would have the right to appeal that conviction, as well as any sentence that was imposed upon you but because you are pleading guilty, you are waiving your right to appeal a conviction and the sentence. Do you understand that?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

Do you have any questions about your Constitutional rights?

MR. VEETERS:

No, sir.

THE COURT:

I also have to inform you that because of the charge that you are pleading guilty to is a felony, there are some additional consequences that might impact or be impacted by your guilty plea. First, if you are not a US citizen, you may be deported. Your right to vote may be impacted. You will not be able to possess a firearm. Your rights to Due Process and Equal Protection may be impacted. Financial aid and college admissions may be impacted. Public housing benefits

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may be limited. Employment opportunities and certain licenses may be restricted. If you are convicted of additional felonies in the future, you may be charged by the District Attorney as a habitual offender, which would result in substantially increased penalties. And during the term of your probation, if the probation office seeks to revoke your probation, the burden of proof to revoke your probation is substantially less than the burden of proof the State would have at trial to prove your guilt. Do you understand those things that may be impacted by you pleading guilty?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

I find that Mr. Veeters understands his rights and is knowingly and intelligently waived them, including the right to trial in favor of a guilty plea. I do not want to go through the whole plea agreement, Mr. Veeters, but I do want to make sure that you understand and it is on the Record, both in writing and orally

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that you understand the sentence that is going to be imposed. You understand that the Court is going to impose on each of the six counts, I am going to sentence you to a term of incarceration for a period of six years but I am going to suspend any jail time that you would have to serve and place you on three years of supervised probation through the probation and parole department. Do you understand that?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

I am going to place a number of conditions on you and those are set forth in the plea agreement but I want to make sure that I have convinced myself that you understand those by going through them with you. First and I am not going to read through everything but basically you are going to agree to permanently give up your physical therapy license and prepare a letter to the Physical Therapy Board that you are, effectively immediately, surrendering your license and that you will not seek to appeal or

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challenge any decision that the
therapy board makes or reapply for
a physical therapy license. Is
that your understanding?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

You have also agreed that you
will not practice as a physical
therapist, a physical therapist
assistant, a physical therapy
technician, or work in any
capacity inside of a physical
therapy clinic, facility, or any
premises where physical therapy is
furnished. Do you understand that?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

Another condition is going to
be that you not be engaged in
direct patient care in any type of
facility, in addition to the
physical therapy facility. Do you
understand that?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

You understand that you are
agreeing and understanding that
you will not seek early
termination of your probation. In

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other words, you will have to
serve out the whole three years on
probation. Do you understand that?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

You also understand that you
will not seek to have these
charges or any information
relating to these charges
expunged. Do you understand that?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

Do you understand that the
Court is going to impose
protective orders with regard to
each of the victims in this case
and you have to abide by those
protective orders, which mainly
relates to you not having any
contact with them or their family
members, either directly or
through a third part. Do you
understand that?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

And we are going to have
written protective orders that
will be filed with the Protective
Order Registry with the State

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Supreme Court.

MRS. CARDIA-PORTER:

Your Honor, the State was only requesting two in writing at the request of the victims.

THE COURT:

Well we are going to do all of them in writing.

MRS. CARDIA-PORTER:

Okay. Yes, sir. Thank you.

THE COURT:

You have agreed also as a term of your probation that you are not going to engage in any business involving direct patient care.

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

Before you travel you are going to seek permission from your probation officer prior to traveling. Do you understand that?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

And of course if they deny travel, your lawyer has the right to file a motion to ask me to allow you to travel. You are also going to submit to a psycho-sexual evaluation. You will agree that

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the State can send documentation to the evaluator and that after the evaluation, the Court and the probation and parole department will get a copy of the evaluation and that you will comply with all of the recommendations of the evaluator. Do you understand that that is going to be a condition of your probation?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

And that you will comply with Article 895 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which list a number of standard conditions of probation that Ms. Griffin, I assume, has explained to you, as well as any conditions outlined by the probation and parole department. Do you understand that?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

You will also have to pay a fine of \$5000 plus court cost and pay a monthly fee to the probation department to help defray the cost of your probation. Do you understand that?

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MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

So as to count one of the amended Bill of Information to second degree battery of Y.G.; how do you plead?

MR. VEETERS:

Guilty.

THE COURT:

In count two, second degree battery upon L.P.; how do you plead?

MR. VEETERS:

Guilty.

THE COURT:

In count three, second degree battery upon K.S.; how do you plead?

MR. VEETERS:

Guilty.

THE COURT:

In count four, second degree battery upon C.S.; how do you plead?

MR. VEETERS:

Guilty.

THE COURT:

In count five, second degree battery upon L.J.; how do you plead?

MR. VEETERS:

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Guilty.

THE COURT:

In count eight, second degree battery upon C.W.; how do you plead?

MR. VEETERS:

Guilty.

THE COURT:

Okay. The Court finds that Mr. Veeters is knowingly, voluntarily, intelligently, and intentionally entered this guilty plea, therefore, I will accept the plea. Mr. Veeters, I understand that we are going to have a sentencing hearing. Is it tomorrow or Wednesday?

MRS. CARDIA-PORTER:

Whatever the Court wants us to have.

THE COURT:

All right. In order to have the victims available so they can give their victim impact statement if they desire to do so, we are going to set sentencing for tomorrow. Is 11:00 too late or too early?

MS. GRIFFIN:

11:00 is fine, Your Honor.

MRS. CARDIA-PORTER:

Whatever is fine with you,

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Samantha.

THE COURT:

All right. Let's do 11:00. We will do the sentencing tomorrow at 11:00 AM.

MS. GRIFFIN:

Thank you, Your Honor. And if I could just clarify, Mr. Veeters plea agreement does not impact his wife's ability to own the physical therapy business.

THE COURT:

That is correct. That is my understanding. All right. Anything else?

MS. GRIFFIN:

That is it.

MADAME CLERK:

He just needs to be fingerprinted.

(DEFENDANT IS FINGERPRINTED IN OPEN COURT AT THIS TIME>)

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R E P O R T E R ' S P A G E

I, Kelby Price Dorsett, Certified Reporter,
in and for the State of Louisiana, the offer,
as defined in Rule 28 of the Federal Rules of
Civil Procedure and/or Article 1434 (b) of the
Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure, before whom
these proceedings were held, do hereby state
for the Record:

That due to the interaction in the
spontaneous discourse of the proceedings,
dashes (--) do not indicate that words or
phrases have been left out of this transcript;

That any words and/or names which could not
be verified through reference material have
been denoted with the phrase "(phonetic)."

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R E P O R T E R ' S C E R T I F I C A T E

This certificate is valid only for a transcript accompanied by my original signature and original required seal on this page.

I, KELBY PRICE DORSETT, Official Court Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana, employed as an Official Court Reporter by the 19th Judicial District Court for the State of Louisiana, as the officer before whom this testimony was taken, do hereby certify that this testimony was reported by me in the stenomask reporting method, was prepared and transcribed by me or under my direction and supervision, and is a true and correct transcript to the best of my ability and understanding; that the transcript has been prepared in compliance with transcript format guidelines required by statute or

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by rules of the board or by the Supreme Court of
Louisiana, and that I am not related to counsel or
to the parties herein, nor am I otherwise interested
in the outcome of this matter.

KELBY PRICE DORSETT
Certified Court Reporter
Certificate # 2013007

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19th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA

STATE OF LOUISIANA NO. DC-19-07235

VERSUS

PHILIPPE A VEETERS

DIVISION '3'

TRANSCRIPT OF THE SENTENCING IN THE ABOVE
CAPTIONED MATTER HEARD BY THE HONORABLE BRAD MYERS,
PRESIDING JUDGE, DIVISION '3,' ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

APPEARANCES:

ON BEHALF OF THE STATE:

SONYA CARDIA-PORTER

LAURA TRACY

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

ON BEHALF OF THE DEFENDANT:

SAMANTHAN GRIFFIN

PRIVATE COUNSEL

REPORTED BY:

KELBY PRICE DORSETT, CCR

CERTIFICATE NO. 2013007

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THE COURT:

Okay, this is docket number
DC-19-07235, State of Louisiana
versus Philippe Veeters. Go ahead
and make your appearances, please.

MRS. CARDIA-PORTER:

Sonya Cardia-Porter on behalf
of the State.

MS. TRACY:

Laura Tracy on behalf of the
State.

MS. GRIFFIN:

Good morning, Your Honor.
Samantha Griffin appearing on
behalf of Philippe Veeters, who is
present in court.

THE COURT:

All right. Mr. Veeters,
yesterday you entered a guilty
plea to six counts of second
degree battery and we are here for
sentencing. First of all, I want
to inform you that you have the
right to delay sentencing for a
minimum of three days or at your
option, we can go forward today.
How do you wish to proceed, sir?

MR. VEETERS:

Continue today.

MS. GRIFFIN:

We will waive formal delays,
Your Honor.

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THE COURT:

Thank you. The other thing is, the legislature passed a statute this summer that if I am going to impose a fine, I am obligated to have an ability to pay hearing unless the defendant waives that hearing. So have you all discussed that and decided whether you want to waive the ability to pay hearing?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, we waive.

THE COURT:

Okay. Ms. Griffin, why don't you come forward. There is a document/waiver that you need to sign.

(DEFENDANT COMES FORWARD AND SIGNS THE ABILITY TO PAY WAIVER FORM.)

THE COURT:

Okay. I understand, Mr. Veeters, at the end of this you will have the opportunity to make a statement to the Court or Ms. Griffin, if you want to have an opportunity. But at this time I understand that some of the victims in this matter that wish to be heard.

MRS. CARDIA-PORTER:

Yes, Your Honor. We have one

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victim present by Zoom, C.W., that would like to make a statement and then one victim present in court, Y.G., who would like to make a statement. And we appreciate you accommodating us on this.

THE COURT:

Okay. Do you have a preference as to who goes first?

MRS. CARDIA-PORTER:

I believe C.W. wants to go first.

THE COURT:

Okay.

MRS. C.W.:

Thank you, Your Honor, for letting me have this opportunity to voice what this assault has done to me. On June 22nd of 2017, the defendant assaulted me. He took advantage of me at one of the most vulnerable points in my life, destroying the person I was at the time and forever changing who I am today. In mid-June of 2017, my husband and I, along with our two daughters moved to Baton Rouge from a small local town. At the time I was looking for a new physical therapist to continue recovery of a shoulder and neck injury that started in March of

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that year. The defendant came highly recommended by an extended family member. At the time I was a stay at home mom to a one year old and preschooler. I needed immediate physical therapy because the injury was severely limiting my ability to care for my two girls. In the immediate months following the assault, I spiraled into a dark and seemingly bottomless depression. I shut myself off from the world. I became increasingly isolated from my family, my friends, my husband, and even my daughters. My bedroom became my prison. I was a literal shell of the happy, healthy, stay at home mom I was a few months prior. The assault also caused my husband immense mental distress. While working full-time, he had to take on the role of dad and mom, while also taking care of me as I fell deeper and deeper into depression, held captive by my physical pain. My mind was let too its own devices as it replayed flash backs of the assault. I could do nothing to rectify. As the months passed, the depressive thoughts turn into suicidal

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ideations and eventually the
ideations turned into real plans.
One night in August of 2017, I
told my husband to remove the gun
from our closet because the
thought of using it on myself had
become so reoccurring that I was
scared my plans would become
reality. That night was my rock
bottom. The assault very nearly
left my husband wifeless, my
children motherless, and my sister
with no living family. The
defendant's actions left me
feeling like I was no worthy of
help. I was still in need of
physical therapy but the assault
had left me paralyzed with fear.
Now when I need physical therapy,
I call ahead of time to make sure
that they are aware of what has
happened to me in the past and ask
if they are willing to accommodate
my needs post-assault. As family,
we have had to make many financial
sacrifices to afford medical
expenses related to the assault.
This includes co-pays, counseling
services, and even child care
expenses. Over the past five years
I have tried to regain a sense of
normalcy, but I have come to

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realize that nothing will ever be normal again. The constant fear of running into the defendant or his staff permeated my mind every time I was in public. Even when I was going to counseling, I could not escape the onslaught of triggers. His Bankers Avenue location is literally across the street from my last counselor's office. Living in Baton Rouge eventually became too much of a burden on my mental health. In early 2020, my husband and I moved our girls out of state all together. Being away from Baton Rouge and away from the defendant has allowed me to regain some sense of security without the constant public fear and paranoia. To this day I continue to have nightmares, severe panic attacks, and life altering anxiety. A consistent theme is present amongst my nightmares. They almost always include the defendant chasing me around an inescapable building. I have woken up drenched in sweat, hyperventilating, and crying on too many occasions to count. My sister accompanies me to every single doctor's appointment. I cannot go alone. I get flash

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backs and start to panic if I am asked to lay back on the exam table. The defendant's gleeful face as he assaulted me is burned into my brain, no matter how much therapy I have to erase it. Sometimes just the sight of a man with similar features can trigger a panic attack. I am overprotective of my daughters. I had to explain to their dentist why they could not go back by themselves. I do not know how to explain to my daughters that they will never be allowed on playdates without me or their father present. They know that a bad man hurt me but I still get nauseous just thinking about telling them what happened to me. How do I explain to them that not every doctor or medical worker is bad like the bad man that hurt their mom. They do not have the opportunity to grow up trusting authority figures. The defendant has ruined a trust for so many family and friends in my life. Today will hopefully be a day of closure for all victims. Because of our determination, we have successfully closed his hunting

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ground. He will no longer be able to prey upon patients in their most vulnerable state. The public will know him for who he truly is and that is the result of our bravery. I will be able to look my daughters in the eyes and tell them that we get to hold the bad man accountable. Hopefully after today I will no longer see his face in my nightmares. Instead, when he sleeps, he will see mine and he will be reminded of those who put his predatory behavior to stop indefinitely. Thank you.

THE COURT:

Thank you, Mrs. C.W. All right, we have somebody in court, Y.G., you want to come forward.

MRS. CARDIA-PORTER:

She would like to sit, Your Honor and she would like me to sit next to her, if that is okay.

THE COURT:

Yes.

MS. Y.G.:

Good morning.

THE COURT:

Good morning.

MS. Y.G.:

I first thank you for the opportunity to speak. I did not

1 prepare a really long statement
2 because it is far too painful to
3 write but I do want to mention
4 that, just like the other witness
5 who spoke, the timing of these
6 actions are so horrific for me
7 because I was having extreme lower
8 back pain and sent to a physical
9 therapist of which a friend
10 recommended him. So his office on
11 Siegen Lane was right next to my
12 office, so I could literally at a
13 stone throw, get to his office. I
14 would walk offer or drive over to
15 his office and at the time my
16 husband was on his death bed and I
17 told that to Mr. Veeters and he
18 said, are you lifting your husband
19 and I said, no. So he knew where I
20 was in my life, which was nursing
21 my husband, who is now deceased.
22 Passed away not long after my
23 treatment from him. Instead of
24 treating my back, he always made
25 his hands work to my front. I
26 always left his office
27 questioning-- questioning myself.
28 Questioning why he was doing this
29 and I kept justifying all of his
30 actions because he was the doctor.
31 And even my friend, the girl who
32 recommended me to go see him, I

1 asked her, I said, is it just me
2 or did you find him unprofessional
3 or is it just my generation and
4 she said, well yeah, I think I
5 did. So even she realized but yet
6 he was convenient. But where that
7 seemed to be a good thing, it
8 really turned out to be a horrific
9 thing because he was still at a
10 stone's throw from where my office
11 was. It is still open today. I
12 will not drive down that piece of
13 Siegen Lane because that building
14 is still open and I still see that
15 sign. He knew where I was. He
16 never comforted, instead he was
17 continuing to figure out how he
18 could utilize and take advantage--
19 even further advantage of us
20 because he would say to me, your
21 husband can see my wife. So he was
22 constantly even trying to get my
23 husband, to get more money from my
24 husband and not even treat me
25 fairly. I can still to this day
26 hear how he would tap me on my
27 vagina (Makes clapping noises with
28 her hands). He would tap and that
29 was his indication for me to get
30 off of the table. I still hear
31 that tap today. It is the loudest
32 sound I hear in my head to this

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day. I just want to glance at my notes because I am so nervous. I did not have a husband or spouse or support system that I could really go tell because yet my husband was 6'4", 235 pounds before he had taken ill. He was a fragment of himself as I went through this with my back pain and physical therapy. So I could not go home and tell him. I had no one to tell. I kept it all bottled up inside and constantly questioned myself. I would not see a doctor because I do not trust them. I was petrified. I literally would have to see a doctor in order to go. I will never trust my judgement again. Never with the medical staff. You cannot close a door to treat me and I do not care what is wrong with me. I was petrified. I was afraid. And still to this day, even through Covid when I went for Covid treatment, they went to close the door and I said, do not close that door. I will not ever enter an examination room and close the door unless there is medical staff present. There was never, ever, ever a nurse or anybody and I did not catch it at

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that time. I did not know. But when we went to Dutch Physical Therapy, there is no one there. You are completely alone with him. And I do remember questioning myself and questioning myself and I remember even feeling sorry for some of the elderly that I would see in rooms by themselves waiting because for some reason I was always prioritized and I do remember feeling compassion for them but I kept going. I did not come forward because of all of the things that were going on in my personal life. Burying my husband and all of those things. But I stopped seeing him after one particular visit that I will not even go into details. But I have never been lowered to such a degree as a woman as when I saw Mr. Veeters. As I was lying in bed one night and I heard Mr. Hillar Moore. I heard his voice and he was speaking and they were saying on the news about a physical therapist with inappropriate behavior or something and I remember saying, someone needs to go get Doctor Veeters and low and behold, the next thing I hear

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Hillar Moore say, he said it was Doctor Veeters and I thought, someone was strong enough. I was not. And I do not know who that was. I am assuming you are on the Zoom call. I thank you today for coming forward. And I thank you, Mr. Hillar Moore, for asking for victims to come forward because it was your plea for victims to come forward and you spoke to exactly who I was. You said, I know that there are more that are probably afraid to come forward. That was me. But I did. I believe that after today we will all be better. I do not know that we can be completely healed but we will all be better. I thank you so much, Sonya. I am forever grateful. Thank you so much and thank you for hearing me.

THE COURT:

Thank you for coming, ma'am.

MRS. CARDIA-PORTER:

Your Honor, it is my understanding that there were only two victims that chose to make a statement. I believe some of them are present but they did not indicate that they wanted to say anything.

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THE COURT:

Okay.

MRS. CARDIA-PORTER:

Thank you.

THE COURT:

Does the State have anything else they want to present?

MRS. CARDIA-PORTER:

I do have the protective orders printed out, as well as the firearm declaration.

THE COURT:

You may approach. All right, Ms. Griffin, do you or Mr. Veeters want to say anything?

MS. GRIFFIN:

No, Your Honor, nothing from the defense.

THE COURT:

All right. Mr. Veeters, obviously, you have had a tremendous negative impact on the victims and not only violating their trust but your conduct negatively impacted the public view of your profession. I do not think that any sentence that I could impose could repair the damage that you have caused to the victims but based on the circumstances of this case and discussions with your attorney and

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the State, I believe that the sentence that has been agreed upon is the appropriate sentence and will certainly protect the public from any actions of you in the future by prohibiting you from being involved in any patient care, whether as a physical therapist or otherwise and hopefully the sentence and the sentencing today will provide some amount of closure for the victims. So as to count one on the Bill of Information, it is the sentence of the Court that the defendant is sentenced to six years at hard labor in the custody of the Department of Corrections, with credit for time served. The sentence is suspended and Mr. Veeters is placed on active supervised probation for a period of three years under the following terms and conditions. First, you must comply with all provisions of Article 895 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. You must pay a \$65 per month fee to the probation and parole department to help defer the cost of supervision. You will agree to a permanent revocation of your license to

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practice physical therapy in the State of Louisiana and will prepare today, a handwritten letter to the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board that the revocation of your license is voluntary, permanent, immediate, and irrevocable. In that letter you will waive your right to an informal conference, a notice of hearing, a final administrative hearing, and/or judicial review of the revocation of your license by the Physical Therapy Board and you will agree not to appeal or challenge that decision or reapply for a physical therapy license. Fifth, you shall not practice as a physical therapist, a physical therapist assistant, a physical therapy technician, or work in any capacity inside of a physical therapy clinic, facility, or any premises where physical therapy is furnished in any fashion. Sixth, you will not engage in direct patient care in any capacity. Seventh, you will not engage in or be involved in any business involving direct patient care. Eighth, you will not seek the early termination of your

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probation. Ninth, you will agree not to seek expungement under Code of Criminal Procedure Article 978 or any other law, of the arrest or any other information related to the offenses with which you are charged or to which you have pled guilty sense the facts arose out of allegations of a sex offense is defined in Revised Statute 15 Section 541. Tenth, you will not have any contact with the victims or their families, either directly or through a third party and you will execute the protective orders to that effect. In a minute I am going to go through the terms of those protective orders so it is crystal clear to you as to what you are allowed to do and not allowed to do more importantly. Eleventh, you will obtain permission from your probation officer prior to any out of state travel. Twelfth, you will obtain a psycho-sexual evaluation and comply with any treatment recommendations. With regard to the psycho-sexual evaluation, you will authorize the State of Louisiana to forward prior to the evaluation, copies of records from

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the victims to be reviewed and considered by the evaluator before he actually performs the evaluation and you will agree that the evaluator will provide to the Court and the probation office a copy of the evaluation and any recommendations. Thirteenth, you will also comply with any other conditions required by the probation and parole department. Fourteenth, you will pay a fine of \$5000 plus court cost. I am also going to order you to appear within 48 hours of today, so by the end of the day on Thursday. By close of business on Thursday you are to report to the Probation and Parole Office and sign up with them. On the protective orders, there is one protective order for each of the six victims. So Mr. Veeters, the protective order has a number of provisions that apply and some that do not. The ones that apply I have initialed. Those sections apply to you. I am not convinced under the terms of the protective order that you are prohibited from owning a firearm but just to cover that, there is another additional condition of

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probation, if the protective order does not already prevent you from carrying a firearm or possessing a firearm, I will order that you not possess a firearm during the term of your probation. But anyway, the protective orders apply to each. There is one for each of the victims in this case. The same terms apply on each one and I am just going to go through those so it is clear to you and to everyone what the protective orders prohibit you from doing. They will also be filed with the Supreme Court in the Protective Order Registry. So they will be public record. But first you are ordered not to abuse, harass, assault, stalk, follow, track, monitor, or threaten the protected person. You are not to contact the protected person personally or through a third party by any means, whether it be by some sort of public posting, in writing, by telephone, or any electronic means like text message, email, messaging, or any other social media communication. You are not to go within a hundred yards of the protected person. You are not to contact the protected

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person's immediate family,
directly or through a third party
in any manner by public posting,
writing, telephone, or any
electronic means like text
message, email, messaging, or any
other social media communication.
You are not to go within a hundred
yards of the residence or
household of the protected person.
You are not to go to the protected
person's school or the protected
person's place of employment. Do
you understand those, sir?

MR. VEETERS:

Yes, sir.

THE COURT:

A violation of the protective
order could result in the
revocation of your probation and a
fine of up to \$500 and six months
in prison. In addition, if you are
convicted of violating the
protective order, you could be
immediately arrested, jailed, and
prosecuted and if convicted, fined
up to \$5000 and imprisoned with or
without hard labor for up to five
years and you may be subject to
other prosecution through other
criminal laws. The protective
order and the terms of your

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probation also prohibit you from possessing a firearm or actually it is broader than that. Prohibits you from possessing, receiving, shipping, transporting, or purchasing a firearm, which includes a rifle, pistol, revolver, or ammunition as long as the order is in place and these protective orders are going to remain in place from today until September 12th of 2028. If you violate that provision of the protective order with regards to possessing, receiving, shipping, transporting, or purchasing a firearm, you are subject to prosecution both under Federal law, as well as under State law. If you own any firearms, there is attached to the protective order, a form that you need to fill out that identifies the manufacturer, model, caliber, and type of firearm and where it is located and you are to transfer all firearms that you own or possess and if you have a concealed handgun permit, you are to surrender your concealed handgun permit to the Louisiana State Police. Finally, this protective

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order is entitled to the Full Faith and Credit clause, which simply means that it is effective in all 50 states of the United States, the District of Columbia, tribal lands, US territories, and commonwealth. So it is enforceable in any of those places, as well as in the State of Louisiana. Mr. Veeters, since this was a negotiated plea and sentence--

MRS. CARDIA-PORTER:

Your Honor, it was as to count two, three, four--

THE COURT:

Oh yeah, I am sorry. On count two of the Bill of Information, it is the sentence of the Court that Mr. Veeters be sentenced to six years at hard labor in custody of the Department of Corrections to run concurrently with the sentence on count one, with credit for time served. That sentence is suspended as well and Mr. Veeters is placed on active supervised probation for a period of three years, to run concurrent with the probation and under the same terms and conditions as count one. On count three of the Bill of Information, it is the sentence of the Court

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that Mr. Veeters be sentenced to six years at hard labor in custody of the Department of Corrections to run concurrently with the other two sentences, with credit for time served. That sentence is suspended as well and Mr. Veeters is placed on active supervised probation for a period of three years, to run concurrent with the probation on the other two counts and under the same terms and conditions. Count four, Mr. Veeters is sentenced to six years at hard labor in custody of the Department of Corrections to run concurrently with the other three sentences, with credit for time served. That sentence is suspended as well and Mr. Veeters is placed on active supervised probation for a period of three years, to run concurrent with the other three counts with the same conditions to run concurrently. Count five, Mr. Veeters be sentenced to six years at hard labor in custody of the Department of Corrections to run concurrently with the other four sentences, with credit for time served. That sentence on count five is also suspended and Mr.

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Veeters is placed on active supervised probation for a period of three years, to run concurrently with the other probationary terms, under the same terms and conditions. Then on count eight of the Bill of Information, Mr. Veeters is sentenced to six years at hard labor in custody of the Department of Corrections to run concurrently with the other sentences imposed, with credit for time served. That sentence is suspended as well and Mr. Veeters is placed on active supervised probation for a period of three years, to run concurrently with all of the other terms of probation under the same terms and conditions. Mr. Veeters, because this was a negotiated plea, you waived your right to appeal the sentence but you have 30 days to ask me to reconsider it. You also have two years from the date the convictions become final to file any post-conviction motions. Do you have any questions?

MR. VEETERS:

No, sir.

THE COURT:

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Okay. You need to come up and be fingerprinted. Wait, we did that yesterday.

MS. GRIFFIN:

Your Honor, with respect to the protective orders, there are four pending civil suits that would potentially require a third party acting on Mr. Veeter's behalf to have contact with the plaintiff's attorneys and so, if we could carve out from the second provision that there be no contact by third parties, just as counsel of record in those civil suits.

THE COURT:

That is fine.

MS. GRIFFIN:

Thank you.

THE COURT:

I do not think we need to put that in the protective order but it is clear that the lawyers in the civil suits may have contact with the victims and not be in violation of the protective orders.

MS. GRIFFIN:

Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT:

All right. Anything else?

MRS. CARDIA-PORTER:

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In the sense of the evaluation, I know that is a condition of his probation but he is on probation for three years. Is there a term in which he has to have that evaluation completed to provide to the Court and his probation officer, rather than just leaving it open for three years?

THE COURT:

Well certainly within the three years but if he does not do that in the three years then it is a violation of his probation. I can impose within a reasonable period of time, in other words, I do not want him waiting around for two and half years to get it done. So to that extent, I do not know if that can be done here or if it needs to be done elsewhere, but I am going to impose a deadline of six months. If that presents a problem from a logistics standpoint-- so what you will need to do, Ms. Griffin, is get Mrs. Cardia-Porter the name of the person who is going to do the evaluation so that she can send the records and whatever authorizations that Mr. Veeters

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needs to sign and if we need to
extend that period of time, we
certainly will consider that.

MS. GRIFFIN:

Thank you.

MRS. CARDIA-PORTER:

Thank you, Your Honor.

MS. GRIFFIN:

Nothing further from the
defense.

THE COURT:

Court is adjourned.

MRS. CARDIA-PORTER:

Thank

you.

R E P O R T E R ' S P A G E

I, Kelby Price Dorsett, Certified Reporter,
in and for the State of Louisiana, the offer,
as defined in Rule 28 of the Federal Rules of

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I, KELBY PRICE DORSETT, Official Court Reporter
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Court for the State of Louisiana, as the officer
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