

**IN THE MATTER OF  
BRIANNA J. PRETSON**

**License No.: LC14241**

**\* BEFORE THE MARYLAND  
\* BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL  
\* COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS  
\* CASE NUMBER: 2025-140**

\* \* \* \* \*

**PRE-CHARGE CONSENT ORDER OF PROBATION**

On or about January 23, 2025, the Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the “Board”) initiated an investigation of Brianna Preston, LC14241, a licensed clinical professional counselor (“LCPC”) licensed by the Board (hereinafter referred to as the “Respondent”). Based on its investigation, the Board voted to offer a Pre-Charge Consent Order of Probation to the Respondent, in lieu of issuing Charges for violations of the Maryland Professional Counselors and Therapists Act (the “Act”), codified at Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. II (“Health Occ.”) §§ 17-101 *et seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol. and 2023 Supp.) and the regulations adopted by the Board, at Md. Code Regs. (“COMAR”) §§ 10.58.01 *et seq.*

Specifically, the Board determined that the Respondent violated the following provisions of the Act and COMAR:

**Health Occ. § 17-509. Denial, probation, suspension or revocation of certificate applicant or holder.**

Subject to the hearing provisions of § 17-511 of this subtitle, the Board, on the affirmative vote of a majority of its members then serving, may deny a license or certificate to any applicant, place any licensee or certificate holder on probation, reprimand any licensee or certificate holder, or suspend or revoke a license of any licensee or a certificate of any certificate holder if the applicant, licensee, or certificate holder:

[...]

(8) Violates the code of ethics adopted by the Board;

[...]

(13) Violates any rule or regulation adopted by the Board;

[...]

(16) Commits an act of immoral or unprofessional conduct in the practice of clinical or nonclinical counseling or therapy[.]

**COMAR 10.58.03.04. Ethical Responsibility.**

A. A counselor shall:

(1) Consult with other counselors or other relevant professionals regarding questions related to ethical obligations or professional practice;

[...]

(11) Be familiar with and adhere to this chapter;

[...]

(14) Take reasonable precautions to protect clients from physical or psychological trauma.

**COMAR 10.58.03.05. The Counseling Relationship.**

A. Client Welfare and Rights.

[...]

(2) A counselor may not:

(a) Place or participate in placing clients in positions that may result in damaging the interests and the welfare of clients, employees, employers, or the public[.]

The Board offered the Respondent an opportunity to settle this matter rather than pursuing formal charges against the Respondent. As a result of that offer, the Respondent and the Board agreed to the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order.

## FINDINGS OF FACT<sup>1</sup>

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was licensed to practice professional clinical counseling.

2. On or about August 23, 2023, the Respondent was issued a license to practice in the State of Maryland as a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (“LCPC”) under License No. LC14241. The Respondent’s license expires on or about January 31, 2027.

3. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was employed as a Therapist at a facility (the “Facility”) that provides individual and group counseling services to individuals of all ages in Maryland.

4. On or about January 23, 2025, the Board received a complaint from the Facility’s Assistant Director of Operations, alleging that the Respondent attempted to solicit a romantic relationship with a patient via text messages. The complaint further alleged that the patient subsequently withdrew from therapy for a few months before re-engaging with a different therapist and reporting the incident to the Facility’s Clinical Director.

5. Attached to the complaint were three (3) screenshots of the text messages between the Respondent and the patient, in which the Respondent referred to the patient as “sugar,” and “sweet pea.” The Respondent admitted that she was “totally crossing my boundaries[.]” The text messages show that when the patient realized who the messages were from, he informed the Respondent that “[he] need[ed] this to stop now[.]” The Respondent then apologized to the patient and, when he informed her that he would seek a new therapist, stated that she understood.

6. The Respondent was subsequently terminated from her position at the Facility.

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<sup>1</sup> To ensure confidentiality, the names of the Former Client and the Facility involved in this case will not be disclosed in this document.

7. Based on the Complaint referral, the Board investigated the Respondent. On October 29, 2025, a Board investigator conducted an interview of the Respondent. During the interview, the Respondent admitted to sending text messages of a romantic nature to the patient and crossing proper therapeutic boundaries.

8. The Respondent was fully cooperative with the Board's investigation.

9. The Respondent's conduct as set forth above violates Health Occ. § 17-509 (8); (13); and (16); COMAR 10.58.03.04(A); and 10.58.03.05(A).

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board finds as a matter of law that the Respondent's conduct, as described above, constitutes a violation of Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 17-509 (8); (13); and (16). In addition, the Board finds as a matter of law that Respondent's conduct as described above constitutes a violation of COMAR 10.58.03.04(A); and 10.58.03.05(A).

### **ORDER**

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of law, it is this 17th day of April, 2026, by a majority of the full authorized membership of the Board, hereby: **ORDERED**, that the Respondent's license to practice clinical professional counseling in the State of Maryland shall be placed on **PROBATION** for a period of **TWO (2) YEARS**, beginning on the effective date of this Order, subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. The Respondent shall practice under the supervision of a Board-approved Supervisor ("Supervisor").
  - a. Within ten (10) days of accepting an offer of employment:
    - i. The Respondent shall provide the Board with the Supervisor's contact information,



7. The Respondent shall comply with the Maryland Professional Counselors and Therapists Act and all laws, statutes, and regulations pertaining thereto.
8. The Respondent shall cooperate with the Board, its agents or/and employees, in the monitoring, supervision, and/or investigation of the Respondent compliance with the terms and conditions of this Consent Order.
9. If the Board determines that the terms or conditions of the consent Order have not been successfully completed, the Board may modify the terms and conditions of the Respondent's probation, upon notice to the Respondent.

**ORDERED** that there shall be no early termination of the probation imposed by this Consent Order. After **TWO (2) YEARS** from the effective date of this Consent Order has passed, the Board will consider a petition for termination of the Respondent's probationary status, provided that the Respondent has been compliant with all of the probationary terms of this Consent Order; and it is further

**ORDERED** that after consideration of the petition, the probation may be terminated, through an order of the Board, or a designated Board committee. The Board, or designated Board committee, may grant the termination if the Respondent has fully and satisfactorily complied with all the probationary terms and conditions under this Pre-Charge Consent Order and there are no pending complaints; and it is further

**ORDERED** that if the Respondent allegedly fails to comply with the terms or conditions of this Consent Order, the Respondent shall be given notice and an opportunity for a hearing. If, in its sole discretion, the Board determines there is a genuine dispute as to a material fact, the hearing shall be an evidentiary hearing before the Board. If there is no genuine dispute as to a material fact, the Respondent shall be given a show cause hearing before the Board; and it is further

**ORDERED** that, after the appropriate hearing, the Board determines that the Respondent has failed to comply with any term or condition of this Consent Order, the Board may reprimand

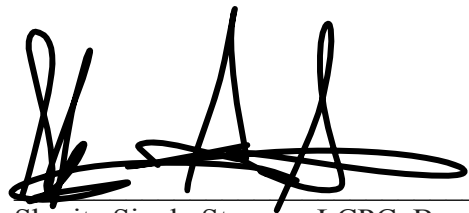
the Respondent, continue the probationary status with appropriate terms and conditions, or suspend or revoke the Respondent's license to practice clinical professional counseling in Maryland. The Board may, in addition to one or more of the sanctions set forth above, impose a civil monetary fine upon the Respondent; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the Respondent shall be responsible for all costs incurred in fulfilling the terms and conditions of her probation and this Consent Order; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the effective date of this Consent Order is the date that it is signed by the Board; and it is further

**ORDERED** that this Consent Order is a Final Order and as such is a public record pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2023 Repl. Vol.) and is reportable to any entity to whom the Board is obligated to report, including the Board's public website and the National Practitioner's Database.

04/17/2026  
Date



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Sharita Sivels-Stevens, LCPC, Board Chair  
Maryland State Board of  
Professional Counselors and Therapists  
4201 Patterson Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215

CONSENT

I, BRIANNA J. PRESTON, LCPC, acknowledge that I am represented by counsel and have consulted with counsel before entering into this Pre-Charge Consent Order. By this Consent and for the purpose of resolving the issues raised by the Board, I agree and accept to be bound by the foregoing Pre-Charge Consent Order and its conditions.

I acknowledge the validity of this Pre-Charge Consent Order as if entered into after the conclusion of a formal evidentiary hearing in which I would have had the right to counsel, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my own behalf, and to all other substantive and procedural protections provided by the law. I agree to forego my opportunity to challenge these allegations. I acknowledge the legal authority and jurisdiction of the Board to initiate these proceedings and to issue and enforce this Pre-Charge Consent Order. I affirm that I am waiving my right to appeal any adverse ruling of the Board that might have followed after any such hearing.

I sign this Pre-Charge Consent Order after having an opportunity to consult with counsel, voluntarily and without reservation, and I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning, and terms of this Pre-Charge Consent Order.

4/6/26  
Date

  
BRIANNA J. PRESTON, LCPC  
Respondent

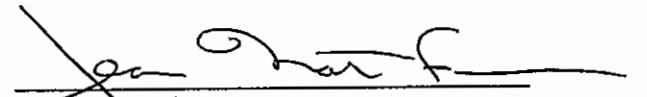
NOTARY

STATE OF MARYLAND

CITY/COUNTY OF Maryland

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 6 day of April, 2026, before me, a Notary Public of the foregoing State and City/County did personally appear, **BRIANNA J. PRESTON**, and made oath in due form of law that signing the foregoing Pre-Charge Consent Order was her voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESSETH my hand and notary seal.

  
~~Notary Public~~  
My commission expires: 11/02/2027

JEANNE NATALIE FRASER  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
BALTIMORE COUNTY  
MARYLAND  
My Commission Expires Nov. 02, 2027

Board of Professional  
Counselors & Therapists

APR 13 2026

RECEIVED