

JENNIFER L. EDWARDS

_____ **2025**

Winnie D. Moore, LCPC, Board Chair
Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors & Therapists
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

RE: Permanent Surrender of License to Practice as a Licensed Clinical Professional
Counselor
License No.: LC5076
Case Number: 2020-077

Dear Ms. Moore And Members of the Board:

Please be advised that, pursuant to Md. Code Ann. Health Occ. §17-508 (2021 Rep. Vol. & 2024 Supp.), I, **Jennifer Edwards**, have decided to **PERMANENTLY SURRENDER** my license to practice clinical professional counseling and therapy or otherwise, in the State of Maryland, **License Number LC5076**, effective upon acceptance of this letter by the Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the "Board"). I understand that upon acceptance of this permanent letter of surrender by the Board, I may not represent to the public by title, description of services, methods, procedures, or otherwise that I am a licensed clinical professional counselor. Moreover, I understand that I may not practice counseling, therapy, clinical or non-clinical, with or without compensation, as it is defined in the State of Maryland in the Maryland Professional Counselors and Therapists Act (the "Act"), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 17-101 *et seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol. & 2024 Supp.) and other applicable laws. In other words, as of the effective date of this Permanent Letter of Surrender, I understand that the surrender of my license means that I am in the same position as an unlicensed individual in the State of Maryland.

I understand that this Permanent Letter of Surrender is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** and, upon the Board's acceptance, becomes a **FINAL ORDER** of the Board.

I acknowledge that the Board initiated an investigation of my counseling and voted to accept the permanent voluntary surrender of my Maryland licensed clinical professional counselor license. The Board's investigation found that I engaged in unprofessional conduct which consisted of a dual relationship with a client. Specifically, the Board's investigation revealed the following:

- a. I provided counseling services for a 75-year-old female client ("Client") beginning September 29, 2022 until April 2016.
- b. My Client often discussed her death and her "end of life plans" with me during counseling. During one counseling session with the Client, my office manager and I signed a document for the Client to donate her body to medical school after her death.
- c. During a counseling session with the Client in March 2015, the Client asked me to look at a legal document for her at our next session and I agreed.
- d. When the Client expressed in her counseling session in March 30, 2025 session, I assured the Client I was "here" and that the Client could call me any time to talk.
- e. At her counseling session on June 24, 2015, the Client stated that her family was "turned against her" and that "the only care she received" was from me and the Agency's office manager.
- f. When the Client stated that she wanted to file a civil suit against her daughter in a counseling session on August 25, 2015, I told the Client I would "look into the paperwork and see if we could file Friday."
- g. In my Treatment Note for a counseling session on September 22, 2015, I noted that the Client had been to the emergency room and that as the Client had no family to speak of¹, named me as her next of kin.
- h. In my December 19, 2015 Treatment Note, I documented that the Client told me the role she wished me to play when the Client died. I documented that I advised the Client that "everything must be written down" so if the family "caused trouble" the Client's "wishes" would be in writing.
- i. After the Client's daughter evicted the Client from her home, I assisted the Client in moving into a shelter.

¹ At that time, the Client had a biological daughter, biological son, biological grandson, and step-son.

- j. I realized that I could no longer act as the Client's therapist, and as a counselor "that the lines were too blurred."
- k. I came to agreement that there was no more therapy, and if the Client wanted therapy she would have to see another therapist.
- l. I assisted the Client in obtaining housing in an assisted living facility.
- m. I "loved" the Client, and the Client became part of my family. I never initiated contact with the Client's family. When the Client's health was declining, I went and helped the Client and was with the Client in the hospital when she died.
- n. On October 18, 2016, the Client signed a Five Wishes Form (advanced health care directive), witnessed by two individuals, naming me as the Client's Health Care Agent. On the same date, the Client signed a Maryland Statutory Form Personal Financial Power of Attorney giving me financial Power of Attorney over Client's banking, insurance, governmental benefits, retirement plans, etc. Also on October 16, 2016, the Client signed her Last Will and Testament naming me as the Personal Representative and the sole beneficiary of the Client's estate.
- o. After the Client died, I handled the Client's Estate. The Client's life insurance policies totaled \$30,000, but after the medical bills were paid, I received approximately \$10,000. The Client wanted me to have the money and to spend it on my children.

On October 24, 2024, the Board issued *Charges Under the Maryland Professional Counselors and Therapists Act* (the "Charges") pursuant to Health Occ. § 17-509(a)(8) (violates the code of ethics adopted by the Board); (16) (commits an act of immoral or unprofessional conduct in the practice of clinical or nonclinical counseling or therapy); and the following provisions of the Code of Ethics adopted by the Board, codified at Md. Code Regs. ("COMAR") 10.58.03.04(A)(1) (a counselor shall consult with other counselors or other relevant professionals regarding questions related to ethical obligations or professional practice); (B)(2) (a counselor may not participate in dishonest, fraudulent, or deceitful activity in the capacity of a counselor; (B)(3) (a counselor may not enter into relationships that could compromise a counselor's objectivity or create a conflict of interest); COMAR 10.58.03.05(A)(1))(a) (a counselor shall inform clients of the purposes, goals, techniques, procedures, limitations, potential risks, and benefits of services to be

performed); (A)(2)(a) (a counselor may not 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); (A)(2)(d) (a counselor may not foster dependent counseling relationships); (B)(1)(a) (a counselor shall avoid dual relationships with clients); (B)(1)(b) (a counselor shall take appropriate measures, including but not limited to, informed consent, consultation, supervision, and documentation to ensure that judgment is not impaired and no exploitation occurs if a dual relationship cannot be avoided); (D)(1)(c) (termination may occur if a counselor is unable to competently and ethically perform duties); (D)(2)(a) (a counselor may terminate a counseling relationship only after securing a client's agreement; and (D)(b) (if a client does not agree to termination, offering an appropriate referral.)

I wish to make it clear that I have voluntarily, knowingly, and freely chosen to submit this Permanent Letter of Surrender to avoid any further investigation and prosecution of the allegations set forth in the Notice of Agency Action. I agree that if the Board were to proceed with an evidentiary hearing in this matter, the State would be able to prove the foregoing violations of the Act by a preponderance of the evidence. I acknowledge that for all purposes relevant to licensure, certification, and/or trainee approval status, the Charges will be treated as if proven.

I understand that by executing this Permanent Letter of Surrender, I am waiving my right to an evidentiary hearing to contest the Charges. In waiving my right to contest the Charges, I am also waiving the right to be represented by counsel at the hearing, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my own behalf, and all other substantive and procedural protections provided by law, including the right to appeal to a circuit court.

I understand that the Board will release this Permanent Letter of Surrender to any appropriate databases required by law. I also understand that in the event I would apply for licensure in any form in any other state or jurisdiction that this Permanent Letter of Surrender may be released or published by the Board to the same extent as a final order that would result from disciplinary action pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. § 4-101 *et. seq.* (2019 Repl. Vol. & 2024 Supp.), and that this Permanent Letter of Surrender constitutes a disciplinary action by the Board.

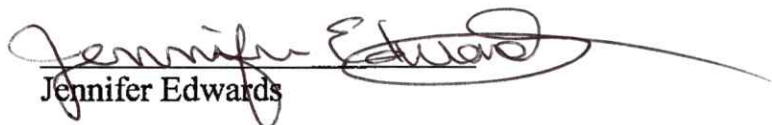
I hereby affirm that I have terminated any counseling and therapy practice I had in in the State of Maryland.

I acknowledge that I may not rescind this Permanent Letter of Surrender in part or in its entirety for any reason whatsoever. Finally, I wish to make clear that I have been advised of my right to be represented by an attorney of my choice throughout proceedings before the Board, including my right to consult with an attorney prior to signing this

Jennifer Edwards
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Permanent Letter of Surrender. I understand both the nature of the Board's actions and this Permanent Letter of Surrender fully. I acknowledge that I understand and comprehend the language, meaning and terms, and effect of this Permanent Letter of Surrender. I make this decision knowingly and voluntarily.

Sincerely,


Jennifer Edwards

NOTARY

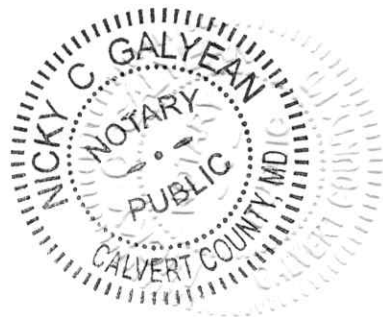
STATE OF Maryland

COUNTY OF Calvert

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 26 day of MARCH, 2025,

before me, a Notary Public of the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared
JENNIFER EDWARDS, and gave oath in due form of law that the foregoing Permanent
Letter of Surrender was her voluntary act and deed.

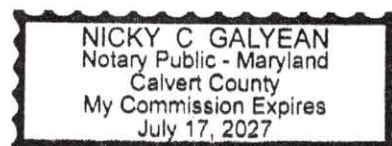
AS WITNESS, my hand and Notary Seal.





Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 7-17-27



Jennifer Edwards
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ACCEPTANCE

On this 4 day of April 2025, I, Winnie D. Moore, LCPC, Board
Chair, on behalf of the Board, accept the **PUBLIC PERMANENT VOLUNTARY
SURRENDER** of the Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor license of **Jennifer
Edwards, LCPC**, to practice professional counseling in the State of Maryland.

Winnie D. Moore, LCPC

Winnie D. Moore, LCPC
Board Chair
Maryland State Board of Professional
Counselors and Therapists