

Heidi Hanes
License Numbers: LC4573 & LCA1992

July 9th, 2026

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

RE: Surrender of License to Practice as a Licensed Clinical Professional
Counselor and Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor
License Numbers: LC4573 & LCA1992
Case Number: 2021-058

Dear Ms. Sivels-Stevens and Members of the Board:

Please be advised that I have decided to **PERMANENTLY SURRENDER** my license to practice as a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor ("LCPC") in the State of Maryland, License Number LC4573, and my license to practice as a Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor ("LCADC") in the State of Maryland, License Number LCA1992, 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 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 or a licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor as they are defined 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 Letter of Surrender, I understand that the surrender of my LCPC and LCADC licenses means that I am in the same position as an unlicensed individual in the State of Maryland.

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

My decision to surrender LCPC and LCADC licenses in the State of Maryland has been prompted by an investigation by the Board into an allegation that I engaged in sexual misconduct with a former client. The results of the investigation led the Board to issue disciplinary charges against me on or about March 20, 2026, under Case Number

2021-058. I have decided to surrender my LCPC and LCADC licenses in the State of Maryland to avoid further prosecution of the disciplinary charges now pending before the Board.

After its investigation, the Board charged me with violating the following:

Health Occ. § 17-509:

- (8) Violates the code of ethics adopted by the Board;
- (9) Knowingly violates any provision of this title;
- (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[.]

and the following provisions of the Code of Ethics adopted by the board, codified at Md. Code Regs. ("COMAR"):

10.58.03.04

- (A)(11) (a counselor shall be familiar with and adhere to this chapter);
- (B)(3) (a counselor may not enter into relationships with that could compromise a counselor's objectivity or create a conflict of interest);
- and

10.58.03.09

- (C)(1) (except as set forth in §C(3) of this regulation, a counselor may not engage in sexual behavior with a former client);
- (C)(2) (a counselor may not terminate professional services or a professional relationship with a client in order to enter into a nonprofessional, social, or sexual relationship with a client or an individual with whom a client has a close personal relationship).

I wish to make clear that I have voluntarily, knowingly, and freely chosen to submit this Letter of Surrender to avoid further prosecution of the aforementioned charges under the Act. I acknowledge that if the case were to proceed to an evidentiary hearing, the State would be able to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that I violated the Act as charged. I acknowledge that for all purposes relevant to my licensure, the Board's investigative findings will be treated as if proven. I understand that by executing this Letter of Surrender, I am waiving any right to contest these findings at a formal evidentiary hearing at 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 law, including the right to appeal.

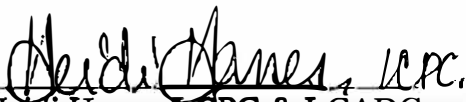
I understand that the Board, in response to any inquiry, will advise that I have

surrendered my LCPC and LCADC licenses. I also understand that, in the event that I apply for alcohol and drug trainee status, certification, or licensure in any form in any other state or jurisdiction, that this Letter of Surrender, and all underlying investigative documents may be released or published by the Board to the same extent as a Final Order that would result from a disciplinary action pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. §§4-101 *et seq.* (2014). Finally, I understand that this Letter of Surrender is considered a disciplinary action by the Board.

I further recognize and agree that by submitting this Letter of Surrender, my LCPC and LCADC licenses, I will remain surrendered unless and until I petition the Board for reinstatement; and I understand that when applying for a new Maryland license or reinstatement, I will approach the Board in the same posture as an individual whose license has been revoked, based on the investigative findings herein. I also understand that the Board has the sole discretion to accept or deny any application that I may submit. I further agree that if the Board reinstates my license, or issues me a new status, certification, or license the Board may set additional terms and conditions that shall apply to my reinstated or new status, certification, or license which may include the imposition of probation.

I acknowledge that I may not rescind this Letter of Surrender in part or in its entirety for any reason whatsoever. Finally, I wish to make clear that I have had the opportunity to consult with an attorney before signing this Letter of Surrender. I understand both the nature of the Board's actions and this Letter of Surrender fully. I acknowledge that I understand and comprehend the language, meaning, and terms and effect of this Letter of Surrender. I make this decision knowingly and voluntarily and without any duress.

Sincerely,

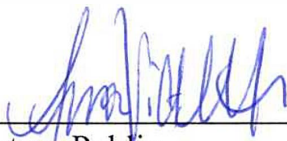

Heidi Hanes, LCPC & LCADC

NOTARY

STATE OF ~~MARYLAND~~ Virginia
CITY/COUNTY OF Frederick

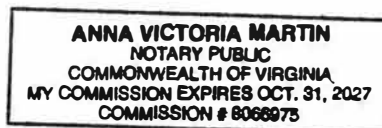
I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 9th day of July,
2026, before me, a Notary Public of the State and City/County aforesaid, personally
appeared HEIDI HANES, and declared and affirmed under the penalties of perjury that
signing the foregoing Letter of Surrender was her voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS my hand and Notarial seal.



Notary Public

My Commission expires: 10/31/2027



ACCEPTANCE

On this 21st day of August 2026, I, Sharita Sivels-Stevens, LCPC, Board Chair, on behalf of the Board, accept the **PUBLIC VOLUNTARY SURRENDER** of the Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor license **Heidi Hanes, LCPC, LCADC** to practice clinical professional counseling the State of Maryland.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharita Sivels-Stevens', is written over a horizontal line.

Sharita Sivels-Stevens, LCPC
Board Chair
Maryland State Board of Professional
Counselors and Therapists

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