

IN THE MATTER OF  
TYRONE LITTLE  
ADT APPLICANT

\* BEFORE THE MARYLAND  
\*  
\* BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL  
\*  
\* COUNSELORS AND  
\*  
\* THERAPISTS

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**FINAL DECISION AND ORDER OF DENIAL OF APPLICATION**  
**FOR ALCOHOL AND DRUG TRAINEE AUTHORIZATION**

On or about May 12, 2023, Tyrone Little (the “Applicant”) submitted an application for alcohol and drug trainee status (“ADT”) in the State of Maryland to the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the “Board”). On January 26, 2024, the Board issued “Notice of Intent to Deny Application for Alcohol and Drug Trainee Authorization” (the “Charges”), which notified the Applicant that the Board voted to initially deny his application for authorization to practice as an ADT and charge him with violations of the Maryland Professional Counselors and Therapists Practice Act, Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 17-101 *et seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol. & 2022 Supp.), specifically:

**§ 17-509. Denial, suspension or revocation of license.**

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 trainee status, a license, or a certificate to any Respondent, place any trainee, licensee, or certificate holder on probation, reprimand any trainee, licensee, or certificate holder, or suspend, rescind, or revoke the status of any trainee, a license of any licensee, or a certificate of any certificate holder if the Respondent, trainee, licensee, or certificate holder:

- (1) Fraudulently or deceptively obtains or attempts to obtain trainee status, a license, or a certificate for the applicant, trainee, licensee, or certificate holder or for another;
- (6) Willfully makes or files a false report or record in the practice of counseling or therapy;
- (9) Knowingly violates any provision of this title;

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- (10) Is convicted of or pleads guilty or nolo contendere to a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude, whether or not any appeal or other proceeding is pending to have the conviction or plea set aside; and

COMAR 10.58.07.03 Application Process for Certification, Licensure, and Trainee Status.

A. In order to obtain a certificate or license or to be eligible for trainee status, an applicant shall:

- (5) Be of good moral character.

The Charges also notified the Applicant of the opportunity to request an evidentiary hearing before the Board. On or about February 7, 2024, the Applicant submitted a timely request for an evidentiary hearing.

By letter dated September 5, 2024, the Board notified the Applicant that an evidentiary hearing was scheduled for November 1, 2024. This notice was sent via email and regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Applicant's last known address of record Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-208 (2014 Repl. Vol.). The United States Postal Service Tracking receipt indicates that the Notice was picked up at the postal facility on September 18, 2024. Accordingly, the Board finds that service of the notice of hearing was proper.

On September 18, 2024 at 8:34 p.m., the Applicant emailed the Board, in part, that he was "no longer interested in pursuing an ADT and [has] moved on to greater and more significant beneficial opportunities in [his] career." On September 20, 2024 at 9:17 a.m., the Applicant emailed the Board and stated, in part, "I am no longer interested in pursuing an ADT and will not be participating in this draconian tribunal hearing..."

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On November 1, 2024, the Board held an evidentiary hearing, and a quorum of the Board was present. An Administrative Prosecutor was present on behalf of the State and the Applicant failed to appear.

**Evidence**

**State's Exhibits**

1. Applicant's Application for Alcohol and Drug Trainee Authorization, dated May 12, 2023
2. Board's Email Correspondence with Applicant regarding Criminal Background, dated June 5, 2023 – July 28, 2023
3. Explanation and court records received from Applicant, dated July 24, 2023
4. Court Records obtained by the Board
5. Transcript of Interview with Applicant taken under oath dated January 17, 2024
6. Notice of Intent to Deny Application for Alcohol and Drug Trainee Authorization, dated January 26, 2024
7. Notice of Hearing Documents, dated February 7, 2024 – September 20, 2024

**State's Witnesses**

1. Compliance Manager and Investigative Supervisor, Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists

**Applicant's Exhibits**

None.

**Applicant's Witnesses**

None.

**I. FINDINGS OF FACT**

Based on the entirety of the record, the Board finds that:

**ADT Application**

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1. The Applicant is not currently authorized, licensed, or certified to practice as an Alcohol and Drug Trainee in the State of Maryland.

2. On or about May 18, 2023, the Applicant submitted an application to the Board for authorization to practice as an ADT in the State of Maryland. (State's Exhibit 1, pp. 2-16).

3. On this application, the Applicant answered "NO" to the following background question: "Have you ever plead guilty, nolo contendere, or been convicted of, received probation before judgement, or had a conviction set aside for any criminal act (excluding traffic violations)?" (State's Exhibit 1, p. 5).

4. As part of the application process, the Applicant underwent a criminal history background check (the "Criminal History Background Check") which revealed that the Applicant had two prior criminal convictions.

5. On or around June 5, 2023, the Board contacted the Applicant and requested that he confirm and explain the discrepancy regarding his answer to Question 2 in the Application and the results of the Criminal History Records Check. (State's Exhibit 2, pp. 18-19).

6. On or around July 27, 2023, the Board received a written explanation dated July 24, 2023 and criminal history documentation from the Applicant. Among other things, the Applicant confirmed the accuracy of the Criminal History Records Check and accepted "full responsibility for the incidents that the record reflects." (State's Exhibit 2, pp. 21-37).

**Criminal History**

7. Court records stated, and the Applicant confirmed, that on or around January 26, 2015, the Applicant was found guilty of First-Degree Rape in the Circuit Court of Baltimore City in the State of Maryland for an incident that occurred on or around September 19, 1978. First-

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Degree Rape is a felony, a crime of violence, and a crime of moral turpitude. The Applicant was sentenced to thirty-six years of incarceration, dating back to January 1, 1979, and five (5) years of probation upon release from incarceration. (State's Exhibit 4, pp. 39-53).

8. Court records also showed, and the Applicant also confirmed, that on or around December 29, 1983, the Applicant was found guilty of Second-Degree Murder in the Circuit Court of Baltimore City in the State of Maryland. Second Degree Murder is a felony, a crime of violence and a crime of moral turpitude. The Applicant was sentenced to twenty-five years incarceration to run concurrent with the Applicant's sentence in the First-Degree Rape. (State's Exhibit 4, pp. 39-53).

**Letter of Explanation**

9. The Applicant's July 24, 2024 letter offered the following explanation:

My early teens through my mid-twenties were years consumed with trauma surrounded by Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), inundated with crime, violence, and poverty. Lacking a strong male presence in my life, I gravitated toward the older males in the Cherry Hill locale of South Baltimore. My low self esteem and wanting to be a part of something made it easy for me to submit to the peer pressure that I (sic) systematically controlled me. During my early teen years, I experimented with alcohol and marihuana (sic). After years of uncontrollable suffering with alcohol and marihuana, which led to a major incarceration, I finally began to conquer my problem when I landed there. Through a combination of substance abuse counseling, along with therapy and 12 step support groups, I have been free from the usage of any type of alcohol or maithuna (sic) use since 1982.

(State's Exhibit 3, p. 21).

10. The Applicant's explanation did not address the nondisclosure of criminal history on his ADT Application.

**Applicant's Interview**

12. On January 17, 2024, the Applicant was interviewed by the Board's investigator.

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During the interview, when asked why he checked “NO” to the background question regarding criminal history, the Applicant maintained that he did not lie on his ADT Application, but checked “NO” inadvertently. (State’s Exhibit 5, pp. 58-59).<sup>1</sup> The Applicant further stated that in 1979, he was sentenced to life in prison for First-Degree Rape. (State’s Exhibit 5, p. 59). The Applicant stated that while incarcerated, he was convicted of second-degree murder and was sentenced to 25 years to run concurrent with the life sentence that he was already serving. (State’s Exhibit 5, p. 60). The Applicant stated that he was released on probation for both convictions in 2015 and completed that probation in 2020. (State’s Exhibit 5, p. 60). The Applicant stated that he is “not the same individual” that he was, and that “knowledge and...education have led [him] on a different path...” (State’s Exhibit 5, p. 62). He stated that he now understands “how valuable human life is...” (State’s Exhibit 5, p. 62).

**Discussion**

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board finds that the Applicant violated the Professional Counselors and Therapists Practice Act. Specifically, the Board finds that the Applicant was convicted of two felonies: First-Degree Rape and Second-Degree Murder, both crimes of violence involving moral turpitude. The Board finds that the Applicant’s actions also violate COMAR 10.58.07.03(A)(5) (be of good moral character).

In addition, the Board finds that the Applicant answered “NO” to questions asking whether he had a criminal history on his application submitted to the Board. The Board finds that the Applicant’s failure to disclose his criminal convictions constitutes a fraudulent or deceitful attempt

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<sup>1</sup> The State’s Exhibits did not contain the signed affidavit from the Applicant attesting to the truth and accuracy of the statements made in the Application for ADT status.

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to obtain a certificate in this State in violation of HO § 17-509(1). Indeed, but for the criminal history records check, the Board would have never have known about the Applicant's criminal history and would not have had the opportunity to review and consider the Applicant's history before granting authorization to the Applicant to practice as an ADT in this State.

The Board finds that the Applicant's violation of the Practice Act falls within category B of the Board's sanctioning guidelines. *See* COMAR 10.58.09.06B(10). The range of potential disciplinary sanctions under category B(10) is reprimand to revocation or denial of license or certificate, and the range of monetary penalties is \$500.00 to \$5,000.00. *Id.* Further, the Board finds that the Applicant's violations also fall within category B(1) of the Board's sanctioning guidelines. *See* COMAR 10.58.09.06B(1) ("Fraudulently or deceptively obtains or attempts to obtain a license or certificate for the applicant, licensee, certificate holder or for another"). The range of potential disciplinary sanctions under category L(1) is active suspension for six months to revocation or denial of license or certificate, and the range of monetary penalties is \$1000.00 to \$5000.00. *Id.*

**Discussion**

Upon consideration of the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the Applicant was convicted of two felonies: First-Degree Rape and Second-Degree Murder, both crimes of violence involving moral turpitude. The Board finds that the Applicant's actions also violate COMAR 10.58.07.03(A)(5) (be of good moral character), in violation of the Maryland Professional Counselors and Therapists Practice Act.

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In light of these violations, the Board must determine whether to deny or grant the Applicant's application for ADT status. Factors relevant to the Board's analysis include: (1) the age at which the crime was committed; (2) the circumstances surrounding the crime; (3) the length of time that has passed since the crime; (4) subsequent work history; (5) employment and character references; and (6) any other evidence that demonstrates whether the applicant poses a threat to the public health or safety. See HO § 17-503(d)(1)

ADTs work with vulnerable and dependent client populations. To fulfill its statutory duty to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, the Board must have confidence that an individual authorized to practice as an ADT by the Board can be trusted to discharge the responsibilities of an ADT in an honest, reliable manner, and provide safe care to the populations they serve. Upon consideration of the record, the Board cannot have that confidence in the Applicant at this time.

Although substantial time has passed, the Applicant's 1979 and 1983 felony convictions were violent, abhorrent and egregious. Moreover, the Applicant failed to disclose these convictions on his ADT Application. Upon consideration of the foregoing, as well as the entire administrative record, the Board will deny the Applicant's application for ADT at this time.

**II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes as a matter of law that the Applicant violated:

**Md. Code Ann., Health Occ.**

**§ 17-509. Denial, suspension or revocation of license.**

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



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trainee status, a license, or a certificate to any Respondent, place any trainee, licensee, or certificate holder on probation, reprimand any trainee, licensee, or certificate holder, or suspend, rescind, or revoke the status of any trainee, a license of any licensee, or a certificate of any certificate holder if the Respondent, trainee, licensee, or certificate holder:

- (1) Fraudulently or deceptively obtains or attempts to obtain trainee status, a license, or a certificate for the applicant, trainee, licensee, or certificate holder or for another;
- (9) Knowingly violates any provision of this title;
- (10) Is convicted of or pleads guilty or nolo contendere to a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude, whether or not any appeal or other proceeding is pending to have the conviction or plea set aside; and

**COMAR 10.58.07.03 Application Process for Certification, Licensure, and Trainee Status.**

A. In order to obtain a certificate or license or to be eligible for trainee status, an applicant shall:

- (5) Be of good moral character.

The Board finds that the evidence does not support the charge of a violation of Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 17-509(6) (“Willfully makes or files a false report or record in the practice of counseling or therapy”), in that the Applicant was not acting in the capacity of providing counseling or therapy at the time of his ADT application.

**III. ORDER**

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is hereby:

**ORDERED** that the application of the Applicant, Tyrone Little, for authorization to practice as an Alcohol and Drug Trainee in the State of Maryland is hereby **DENIED**; and it is further

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**ORDERED** that this is a Final Decision and Order of the Board and, as such, is a **PUBLIC RECORD** under Md. Code Ann., General Provisions §§ 4-101 *et seq.*

1/17/2025  
Date

  
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Winnie Moore, Chair  
Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists

**NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS**

Any person aggrieved by a final decision of the Board under Md. Ann. Code, Health Occ. § 17-509 may take a direct judicial appeal within thirty (30) days of the date this Order is mailed, as provided by Md. Ann. Code, Health Occ. § 17-512, Md. Ann. Code, State Gov't § 10-222, and Maryland Rule 7-203(a)(2) ("Time for Filing Action").