

IN THE MATTER OF

*

BEFORE THE MARYLAND STATE

TINA MARIE WILLIS

*

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL

Applicant

*

COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS

*

Case Number: 2024-159

* * * * *

FINAL CONSENT ORDER

The Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the “Board”) notified **TINA MARIE WILLIS** (the “Applicant”) of the Board’s intent to deny her application to practice as an alcohol and drug trainee pursuant to the Maryland Professional Counselors and Therapists Act (the “Act”), codified at Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 17-101 *et seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol. and 2024 Supp.).

Specifically, the Board bases its action on the following:

Health Occ. § 17-509. Denial, probation, suspension or revocation of trainee status, license, or certificate.

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 applicant, 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 applicant, trainee, licensee, or certificate holder:

- (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[.]

(13) Violates any rule or regulation adopted by the Board[.]

The Board also bases its intent to deny on the following regulation:

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[.]

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On or about November 8, 2023, the Board received the Applicant's Alcohol and Drug Trainee Application (the "Application").

2. In her Application, the Applicant answered "yes" to question 2, which asked: "Have you pled guilty, *nolo contendere*, [*sic*] or been convicted of, received probation before judgment or had a conviction set aside for any criminal act (excluding traffic violations)?"

3. The Application instructed the Applicant to "attach a separate page with a complete explanation of each occurrence (include date, time, location, disposition, etc.) and a certified copy of the disciplinary/court document from the issuing agency, if applicable." (emphasis added)

4. The Applicant included a written explanation with the Application, but she failed to include a complete explanation for each occurrence. In her written explanation, the Applicant stated, in part:

I will try to keep this short but as you can see, I have a criminal background that dates back many years. I have struggled with

substance abuse disorder since I was about 18 and over the years it got much worse. I relapsed in 1998 and my addiction took off and I stayed in active addiction for many years, and I continued to destroy myself and my family. I did things that I am not proud of to feed my addiction and my need for more. I was in and out of jail for many years trying to figure out a way to stay clean and nothing seemed to work. I continued to go back and forth to jail and treatment, mostly outpatient, knowing that was not enough. In truth, I thought I knew what was best for me. I could go on about my criminal past, but my background check shows my history.

5. Based on the Applicant's acknowledgment on the Application that she had a criminal history, the Board conducted an investigation of the Applicant's criminal history¹.

The investigation revealed that the following:

Applicant's Criminal History

Case Number: 1A00048686

6. On or about December 30, 1997, the Applicant was charged in the District Court of Maryland for Anne Arundel County with one (1) count of theft less than three hundred dollars (\$300). On May 6, 1998, the Applicant pleaded guilty to theft less than three hundred dollars (\$300), a crime involving moral turpitude. The Applicant was given probation before judgment.

Case Number: 3M00004378

7. On December 21, 1998, the Applicant was charged in the District Court of Maryland for Queen Anne's County with one count of obtaining controlled dangerous substances ("CDS") prescriptions by fraud, one count of obtaining and concealing CDS

¹ The Applicant's criminal history including charges and convictions are under her maiden name, Tina Marie Smith.

prescriptions, one count of obtaining CDS prescriptions by impersonation, one (1) count of CDS possession not marijuana, and one (1) count of obtaining CDS by fraud, in case number. On August 1, 2001, the Applicant pleaded guilty to obtaining CDS by fraud, a crime involving moral turpitude. The Applicant was sentenced to sixty days incarceration.

Case Number: 3N00008368

8. On or about July 31, 2000, the Applicant was charged in the District Court of Maryland for Talbot County with six (6) counts of obtaining CDS prescriptions by fraud, six counts of obtaining and concealing CDS prescriptions, and six (6) counts of obtaining CDS prescriptions by impersonation.

9. On December 9, 2002, the Applicant pleaded guilty to two (2) counts of obtaining CDS by fraud, crimes involving moral turpitude. The Applicant was sentenced to one year and eleven months of incarceration.

Case Number: 1A00108270

10. On or about May 22, 2002, the Applicant was charged in the District Court of Maryland for Anne Arundel County with eight (8) counts of theft less than five hundred dollars (\$500) and one (1) count of theft scheme five hundred dollars (\$500) plus.

11. On November 25, 2002, the Applicant pleaded guilty to theft scheme five hundred dollars (\$500) plus, a crime involving moral turpitude. The Applicant was sentenced to eighteen (18) months incarceration.

Case Number: 2A00105303

12. On or about May 26, 2002, the Applicant was charged in the District Court of Maryland for Anne Arundel County with one (1) count of theft less than five hundred dollars (\$500).

13. On or about November 25, 2002, the Applicant pleaded guilty to theft scheme five hundred dollars (\$500) plus, a crime involving moral turpitude. The Applicant was sentenced to eighteen (18) months incarceration with ten (10) months suspended and was placed on two years of probation.

Case Number: 2M00008311

14. On or about May 28, 2002, the Applicant was charged in the District Court of Maryland for Queen Anne's County with one (1) count of theft less than five hundred dollars (\$500) and one (1) count of attempted theft less than five hundred dollars (\$500) in case number.

15. On or about November 18, 2002, the Applicant pleaded guilty to both counts, which are crimes involving moral turpitude.

16. The Applicant was sentenced to eighteen (18) months of incarceration all suspended. The Applicant was placed on two (2) years of supervised probation. On or about April 21, 2004, the Applicant was found guilty of violation of her probation and was sentenced to eighteen (18) months of incarceration with credit for forty-eight (48) days.

Case Number: 3A00111835

17. On or about September 9, 2002, the Applicant was charged in the District Court of Maryland for Anne Arundel County with one (1) count of theft less than five hundred dollars (\$500) in case number.

18. On or about November 25, 2002, the Applicant pleaded guilty to theft less than five hundred dollars, a crime involving moral turpitude.

19. The Applicant was sentenced to eighteen (18) months of incarceration with all, but two (2) months suspended, and placed on probation for two (2) years.

Case Number K-2002-2164

20. On or about November 1, 2002, the Applicant was indicted in the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, Maryland and charged with one count of first-degree burglary, two counts of theft of less than five hundred dollars (\$500), and one count of identity fraud in.

21. On or about February 14, 2003, the Applicant pleaded guilty to first degree burglary, a crime involving moral turpitude The Applicant was sentenced to six years incarceration.

22. On or about July 28, 2003, the Applicant's sentence was modified, and the balance of the incarceration was suspended. The Applicant was placed on supervised probation for three years and then two years of unsupervised probation.

23. On or about November 2, 2007, the Applicant was found in violation of her probation and was sentenced to four years and four months at the Maryland Department of Corrections and was given credit nine days credit for time served.

Case Number: 4M00008915

24. On or about December 2, 2002, the Applicant was charged in the District Court of Maryland for Queen Anne's County with one (1) count of burglary first degree, one (1) count of burglary third degree, one (1) burglary fourth degree, one (1) count of theft less than five hundred dollars, and one (1) count of rogue and vagabond.

25. On or about March 21, 2003, the Applicant pleaded guilty to burglary fourth degree and theft less than five hundred dollars, a crime involving moral turpitude. The Applicant was sentenced to three years' incarceration with two years and eleven months suspended. The Applicant was placed on probation for four months and six days.

Case Number: 6A00115933

26. On or about January 4, 2003, the Applicant was charged in the District Court of Maryland for Anne Arundel County with two (2) counts of uttering a false document and one (1) count of theft scheme of five hundred dollars plus.

27. On or about May 25, 2003, the Applicant pleaded guilty to one (1) count of uttering a false document, a crime involving moral turpitude. The Applicant was sentenced to two years' incarceration with three hundred sixty-four (64) days suspended. The Applicant was placed on probation for one year and fourteen days.

Case Number: 6A00246315

28. On or about January 5, 2012, the Applicant was charged in the District Court of Maryland for Anne Arundel County with one (1) count of theft less than one thousand dollars and two (2) counts of possession of CDS paraphernalia.

29. On or about February 1, 2013, the Applicant pleaded guilty to one (1) count of possession of CDS paraphernalia. The Applicant was placed on two years of supervised probation.

30. On or about October 20, 2015, the Applicant was found in violation of probation and the probation was terminated.

Case Number: Number K-12-1939 JC

31. On or about May 4, 2012, the Applicant was charged in the District Court of Maryland for Anne Arundel County with two (2) counts of attempted theft less than one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) and attempted theft scheme less than one thousand dollars (\$1000.00).

32. On or about September 26, 2012, the Applicant filed for a jury trial and the case was transmitted to the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County.

33. On or about November 14, 2012, the Applicant pleaded guilty to, and was found guilty of an amended count of theft less than one thousand dollars, a crime involving moral turpitude. The Applicant was sentenced to eighteen months of incarceration to be served on house arrest.

Case Number: K-2015-1093.

34. On or about May 8, 2015, the Applicant was charged by criminal information in the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, Maryland with one (1) count of obtaining property of vulnerable adult, ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to under one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) and one (1) count of theft-scheme, over ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to under one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000):

35. On or about March 17, 2016, the Applicant pleaded guilty to an amended count of theft of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) to under ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), a crime involving moral turpitude. The Applicant was sentenced to eight years incarceration with all but twelve months suspended. The Applicant was also sentenced to three years of supervised probation.

36. On or about September 28, 2020, the Applicant was found guilty of violation of probation and sentenced to eighteen months of incarceration with credit for thirty-six days.

Case Number: C-02-CR-16-001660

37. On or about May 10, 2016, the Applicant was charged in the District Court of Maryland for Anne Arundel County with several traffic citations including vehicle driver giving false and fictitious name to uniformed police and driving a motor vehicle on a highway on a suspended license.

38. On or about August 19, 2016, the Applicant motioned for a jury trial and the case was transmitted to the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

39. On or about September 28, 2016, the Applicant pleaded guilty to vehicle driver giving false a fictitious name to uniformed police, a crime involving moral turpitude, and driving a motor vehicle on a highway on a suspended license.

40. On or about October 24, 2016, she was accepted into the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, Maryland Drug Court Program.

41. On or about January 16, 2024, the Board requested that the Applicant provide an additional explanation related to the conviction in case number K-2015-1093. On

January 16, 2024, the Board received a written explanation from the Applicant describing this incident. The Applicant stated, in part:

At the time this charge occurred there was a gentleman that lived in our community he was like a grandfather if you will, he was retired, bored, and he had lots of free time on his hands.we celebrated birthdays together and had family dinners at our house that he loved coming to. He started coming over to our house a few times a week just to simply hang out and watch a movie or just chat. During this time as our friendship grew we would go grocery shopping together, go to the Department stores together.... during all of the times that we were together I also will admit that I did take one of [gentleman's] credit cards and went to the local CVS and purchased gift cards, I stole from him and did use the gift cards to trade for cash so that I could continue to progress in my active addiction.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes as a matter of law that the Applicant's conduct described as above constitutes a violation of the Act and a basis on which to deny the Applicant's Application to practice as an Alcohol and Drug Trainee. Specifically, the Applicant was convicted of multiple crimes including felony thefts, obtaining CDS prescriptions, burglary, uttering a false document, possession of a controlled substance, and providing a false name to a police officer. As set forth above, the Applicant's conduct constitutes a violation of Health Occ. § 17-509(9), (10), and (13) and COMAR 10.58.07.03A(5).

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 3rd, day of February 2025, by a majority of the Board considering this case, hereby:

ORDERED that the Applicant's application to practice as an alcohol and drug trainee in the State of Maryland is hereby **GRANTED**; and it is further

ORDERED that the Applicant's notice of approval to practice as an alcohol and drug trainee in the State of Maryland is placed on **PROBATION for a minimum of two (2) years** beginning on the effective date of this Consent Order, subject to the following terms and conditions:

- (1) The Applicant's status as an alcohol and drug trainee will be listed in the Board's electronic records and website as being on "Probation".
- (2) The Applicant shall submit quarterly drug screening results to the Board.
- (3) The Applicant shall undergo intensive therapy at a minimum of one session per week. The Applicant shall provide the therapist with a copy of the Consent Order and provide documentation of the therapist's receipt of the Consent Order to the Board.
- (4) The Applicant shall ensure that the Applicant's therapist provides quarterly written reports to the Board in a timely manner.
- (5) The Applicant shall attend weekly narcotics anonymous meetings. The Applicant shall provide the Board with documentation of her attendance.
- (6) The Applicant shall obtain a Board-approved supervisor. The Applicant shall provide a copy of the Consent Order to the Board-approved supervisor and provide documentation of the supervisor's receipt of the Consent Order to the Board.
- (7) The Applicant shall meet with the Board-approved supervisor a minimum of one session per month and for a minimum of one hour per session.
- (8) The Applicant shall ensure that the Board-approved supervisor submits timely quarterly written reports to the Board detailing the supervision provided and an evaluation of the Applicant's practice.
- (9) A negative report from the Board-approved supervisor or any failure to comply with the supervisor's recommendations shall be deemed a violation of probation or of this Consent Order.
- (10) If the Board-approved supervisor discontinues supervising the Applicant's practice for any reason during the probationary period, the Applicant shall notify the Board within five (5) days of the change. The Applicant is responsible for securing a new Board-approved supervisor and providing the new supervisor's contact information to the Board. The Applicant shall provide the new supervisor with a copy of the Consent Order. The Applicant shall provide documentation of the new supervisor's receipt of the Consent Order to the Board.

- (11) The Applicant shall immediately provide her employer with a copy of the Consent Order and provide the Board the contact information for her employer. The Applicant shall provide documentation of the employer's receipt of the Consent Order to the Board.
- (12) If the Applicant's employment is terminated for any reason during the probationary period, the Applicant shall notify the Board within five (5) days of the termination. Upon obtaining new employment, the Applicant shall provide the Board with the new employer's contact information and provide documentation of the new employer's receipt of the Consent Order.
- (13) The Applicant shall successfully complete a Board approved ethics course for substance abuse counselors. The ethics course shall be completed within 180 days of the date that this Consent Order is signed by the Board.
- (14) The Applicant shall cooperate with the Board, its agents or/and employees, in the monitoring, supervision, and/or investigation of the Applicant's compliance with the terms and conditions of this Consent Order.
- (15) 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 Applicant's probation, upon notice to the Applicant.
- (16) At any time during the probationary period, the Board may, in its discretion, order the Applicant to submit to an examination by a healthcare provider designated by the Board. If so ordered, the Board shall pay for the cost of the examination. The Applicant shall sign all necessary consent forms required to authorize disclosure of the healthcare provider's written report to the Board. Furthermore, the Applicant consents to the use and disclosure of the healthcare provider's report, as well as any other medical, mental health, or substance use disorder treatment records, in any subsequent Board proceeding, including, but not limited to, any final, public order issued by the Board.
- (17) If the Applicant allegedly fails to comply with the terms or conditions of this Consent Order, the Applicant 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 Applicant shall be given a show cause hearing before the Board.
- (18) If, after the appropriate hearing, the Board determines that the Applicant has failed to comply with any term or condition of the Consent Order, the Board may reprimand the Applicant, continue the probationary status with appropriate terms and conditions, or suspend or revoke the Applicant's certificate to practice as an alcohol and drug trainee in Maryland. The Board may, in addition to one or more of the sanctions set forth above, impose a civil monetary fine upon the Applicant; and it is further

ORDERED that the Applicant 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 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 Applicant's probationary status, provided that the Applicant has been compliant with all of the probationary terms of 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.* (2019 Repl. Vol. & 2024 Supp.).

02/03/2025
Date

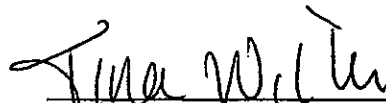


Winnie D. Moore, LCPC
Winnie D. Moore, LCPC
Board Chair
Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and
Therapists

CONSENT

I, Tina Marie Willis, acknowledge that I was represented by an attorney before entering into this Consent Order. By this Consent Order and for the purpose of resolving the issues raised by the Board, I agree and accept to be bound by the foregoing Consent Order and its conditions. I waive any rights I may have to contest the Findings of Fact and the Conclusions of Law. I acknowledge the validity of this 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 acknowledge the legal authority and jurisdiction of the Board to initiate these proceedings and to issue and enforce this Consent Order. I affirm that I am waiving my right to appeal any adverse ruling of the Board that might have followed any such hearing. I sign this Consent Order, voluntarily and without reservation, after having an opportunity to consult with counsel, and I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning and terms of this Consent Order.

1-24-25
Date



Tina Marie Willis
ADT Applicant

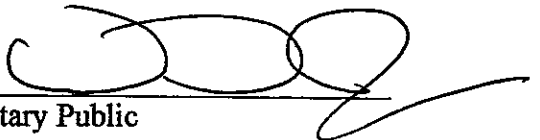
NOTARY

State: MARYLAND

City/County: ANNE ARUNDEL

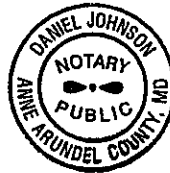
I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 24 day of JANUARY, 2025 before me, a Notary Public of the State and City/County aforesaid, personally appeared, **Tina Marie Willis, ADT APPLICANT** and declared an affirmed under the penalties of perjury that signing the foregoing Consent Order was her voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS my hand and Notarial seal.


Notary Public

My Commission expires:

04/24/2028



Daniel Johnson
NOTARY PUBLIC
Anne Arundel County
State of Maryland
My Commission Expires
04/24/2028