

IN THE MATTER OF	*	BEFORE THE MARYLAND STATE
TASHAYLA WILLIAMS LCPC	*	BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL
Respondent	*	COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS
License No.: LC6803	*	Case Number: 2020-005

* * * * *

FINAL ORDER

On or about February 17, 2023, the Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the “Board”) notified **TASHAYLA WILLIAMS, LCPC, (Licensed Certified Professional Counselor)** (the “Respondent”), License Number LC6803, of the Board’s intent to revoke her LCPC license based on violations of the Maryland Professional Counselors and Therapists Act (the “Act”), codified at Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 17-101 *et seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol.).

The Board based its intent to revoke on the following provisions of the Act:

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:

- (6) Willfully makes or files a false report or record in the practice of counseling or therapy;
- (7) Makes a willful misrepresentation while counseling or providing therapy;
- (8) Violates the code of ethics adopted by the Board;

- (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;
- (12) Submits a false statement to collect a fee;
- (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[.]

Pursuant to Health Occ. § 17-509 (8) and (13), shown above, the Board also bases its action on the following provisions of the Code of Ethics adopted by the board, codified at Md. Code Regs. (“COMAR”) 10.58.03 *et seq.*, in particular:

COMAR 10.58.03.03 Professional Competence

A. A counselor shall:

- (1) Practice only within the boundaries of a counselor’s competence, based on education, training, supervised experience, and professional credentials.

....

COMAR 10.58.03.04 Ethical Responsibility

B. A counselor may not:

....

- (2) Participate in dishonest, fraudulent, or deceitful activity in the capacity of a counselor[.]

More than thirty (30) days elapsed since the Respondent was notified of the Board’s intent to revoke her license, and the Respondent failed to timely request a hearing.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board based its action on the following facts the Board has reason to believe are true:

I. BACKGROUND

1. At all times relevant, the Respondent was authorized to practice clinical professional counseling in the State of Maryland. The Respondent was originally licensed to practice as an LCPC in the State of Maryland on December 11, 2015, under License Number LC6803. The Respondent's LCPC license is currently non-renewed having expired on January 31, 2019.

II. COMPLAINT

2. On or about July 20, 2021, the Board received notice ("the Complaint") from the Maryland Office of the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit regarding the Respondent.

3. The Complaint stated that the Respondent was convicted of one count of Medicaid Fraud, a felony, for submitting claims that caused the Maryland Medical Assistance Program ("Medicaid") to reimburse the Respondent more than \$92,000 for counseling services that she did not provide.

4. After receiving the Complainant's complaint, the Board initiated an investigation of the Respondent under Case Number 2022-005.

III. BOARD INVESTIGATION

5. The Board received the criminal court records that indicate that on or about

July 9, 2021, in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Maryland, Case Number 621134001, the Respondent plead guilty to and was convicted of Defrauding State Health Care \$1,500 Plus, a felony and a crime of moral turpitude. The Respondent was sentenced to five years of incarceration, of which, four years, eleven months, and six days were suspended.¹ Upon release from incarceration, the Respondent was placed on five years of supervised probation subject to certain conditions that included paying restitution in the amount of \$92,682.89 to the Maryland Medicaid Fraud Control Unit.

6. Specifically, according to the records obtained, between August 2016 and August 2018, in Baltimore, Maryland, the Respondent did knowingly and willfully defraud the Maryland Medical Assistance Program by billing for services that were not rendered while she was self-employed as a licensed professional counselor and for counseling sessions that took place over the telephone at the time when the Respondent was not authorized to perform telehealth.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes as a matter of law that the Respondent's conduct as described above constitutes violations of the Act and a basis on which to rescind the Respondent's alcohol and drug trainee status. Specifically:

ORDER

Based on the foregoing, it is this 21st day of April, 2023, by the Board hereby:

ORDERED that the **TASHAYLA WILLIAMS'** license to practice professional

¹ The Respondent received credit for time served.

counseling, **License Number LC6803**, is hereby **REVOKED**; and it is further

ORDERED that this is a Final Order and as such is a **PUBLIC RECORD** pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. §§ 4-101-4-601 (2019).

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL


Pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 17-512(b), the Respondent has the right to take a direct judicial appeal. Any appeal shall be filed within thirty (30) days from the date of this Final Order and shall be made as provided for judicial review of a final decision in the Maryland Administrative Procedure Act, Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-222; and Title 7, Chapter 200 of the Maryland Rules of Procedure.

If the Respondent files an appeal, the Board is a party and should be served with the court's process at the following address:

Shelly-Ann Barnes, Compliance Manager
Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215-2299
Fax: 410-358-1610

At that point, the Administrative Prosecutor is no longer a party to this case and need not be served or copied.

04/21/2023
Date


Mary N. Drotleff, M.S. LCMFT
Board Chair
Maryland State Board of Professional
Counselors and Therapists