

IN THE MATTER OF  
LA'VON DOBIE,  
  
Applicant

\* BEFORE THE MARYLAND STATE  
\* BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL  
\* COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS  
\* CASE NUMBER: 2023-072

\*\*\*\*\*

**CONSENT ORDER**

On or about March 17, 2023, the Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the "Board") notified LA'VON DOBIE (the "Applicant"), of the Board's intent to deny her Application to practice as a *Certified Supervised Counselor – Alcohol and Drug (CSC-AD)* under the Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists Act (the "Act"), codified at Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 17-101 *et seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol. and 2022 Supp).

Specifically, the Board based its intent to deny on the following provisions:

**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:

- (1) Fraudulently or deceptively obtains or attempts to obtain trainee status, a license, or a certificate for the applicant, trainee, licensee, or certificate holder 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[.]

**Health Occ. § 17-404. Certification; supervised counselor—alcohol and drug.**

(a) *In general.* – To qualify as a certified supervised counselor-alcohol and drug, an applicant shall:

(1) Be of good moral character;

Also the Board based its intent to deny on the following regulations:

**COMAR 10.58.07.08**

C. To qualify for certification as a supervised counselor-alcohol and drug, an applicant shall:

.....

(6) Comply with:

(a) Health Occupations Article, Title 17, Annotated Code of Maryland[.]

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Board makes the following findings of fact:

**I. CSC-AD Application**

1. On or about October 21, 2022, the Board received the Applicant’s Application for a Certified Supervised Counselor - Alcohol and Drug (CSC-AD) certificate.

2. In the 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 Applicant provided the Board with copies of her court records and a letter of explanation regarding her criminal history.

**II. Felony Convictions**

4. On or about December 19, 2006, the Applicant was convicted in the United

States District Court for the District of Maryland (Case No. RWT-04-0235) of (1) Conspiracy to Distribute and Possession with the Intent to Distribute Controlled Substances, (2) Use of a Communications Device to Facilitate Narcotics Trafficking, and (3) Possession of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Crime. The Applicant was sentenced to imprisonment for a period of 206 months and federal supervised release for a period of five years.

### **III. Applicant's Letter of Explanation**

5. In the letter of explanation dated August 31, 2022 which was attached to her Application, the Applicant stated "I have not engaged in criminal activity since my last arrest listed on my background check. ...I have had no convictions or arrest in the last eighteen years. Since acquiring my ADT #1380 in 2016, I have had a numerous amount of my prior convictions expunged. I attest to the fact that I have not engaged in any illegal activities or been arrested since June 1, 2004."

6. On or about November 9, 2022, the Board received a letter from U.S. Probation Officer, advising that the Applicant had successfully completed her term of Federal Supervised Release on October 29, 2020. The letter explains that the Applicant was in federal custody from the date of her arrest on May 25, 2004, until her release from the Bureau of Prisons on October 30, 2015.

### **IV. ADT Application**

7. The Applicant was issued an Alcohol and Drug Trainee ("ADT") authorization #ADT 1380 on November 22, 2016. The ADT authorization was last renewed on October 16, 2020, and expired on November 30, 2022. The Applicant is not currently authorized, licensed, or certified to practice as an Alcohol and Drug Trainee in the State of Maryland.

8. The Applicant submitted an initial application for Alcohol and Drug Trainee Authorization (“ADT Application”), the Applicant answered “Yes” to the Question C which asked “Have you pled guilty, *nolo contendere* [sic], or been convicted of or received probation before judgment for any criminal act (excluding traffic violations)?” Question C of the ADT Application directed the Applicant to “Include required information on all felony convictions ...”

9. The Applicant provided true test copies of court records from the Circuit Court for Baltimore City and the District Court of Maryland.

10. In her letter of explanation attached to the ADT Application, the Applicant stated, “I am a woman with integrity ... I have an extensive criminal history due to my past poor choices .... When going to the Courts to get a True Test copy for you all I discovered charges I cannot recall. I have chosen to divulge that information as well. I pray all of my record can be expunged as I was told by the courts, since I have not committed an illegal act in over 15 years.”

11. The Applicant failed to disclose the December 19, 2006 felony convictions in her letter of explanation or provide records for the convictions for which she had been incarcerated until 2015.

### **GROUND FOR DISCIPLINE**

The Applicant’s felony convictions for Conspiracy to Distribute and Possession with Intent to Distribute Controlled Substances, Use of a Communications Device to Facilitate Narcotics Trafficking, and Possession of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug constitute violations of Health Occ. § 17-509 (9) and (10), and Health Occ. § 17-404(a)(1).

The Applicant’s failure to disclose her December 19, 2006 felony convictions for Conspiracy to Distribute and Possession with the Intent to Distribute Controlled Substances, Use of a Communications Device to Facilitate Narcotics Trafficking and Possession of a Firearm in

Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Crime, failure to disclose that she was on federal supervised release at the time of her 2016 ADT Application and false and misleading statement(s) in her letter of explanation attached to her 2016 ADT application that [she had] “not committed an illegal act in over 15 years” constitute violations of Health Occ §17-509(1), (9) and (10).

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes as a matter of law that the Applicant violated Health Occ. § 17-404(a)(1); Health Occ. § 17-509(1), (9) and (10), and COMAR 10.58.07.08 C (6)(a).

### **ORDER**

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 23rd day of June, 2023, by a majority quorum of the Board considering this case:

**ORDERED** that the Applicant’s *Alcohol and Drug Trainee Authorization*, ADT #1380, be and it is hereby **REPRIMANDED**; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the Applicant’s Application to practice as a *Certified Supervised Counselor – Alcohol and Drug (CSC-AD)* in the State of Maryland is hereby **GRANTED** on the condition that the Applicant take and pass the required examinations and meet the requirements for the certification. Once the Applicant meets the requirements for certification, the certificate will be subject to the conditions of this Consent Order; and it is further

**ORDERED** that upon issuance of the CSC-AD certificate, the Applicant’s certificate shall be placed on **PROBATION** for a period of no less than **TWO (2) YEARS**. During the period of probation, the Applicant must successfully complete the following probationary conditions:

1. The Applicant shall enroll in and successfully complete a four (4) credit hour ethics course, approved in advance by the Board. The ethics course must be attended in person or via live webinar;
2. The Applicant shall submit documentation to the Board demonstrating she successfully completed the four (4) credit hour ethics course;
3. No part of the training or education that the Applicant receives in order to comply with the Consent Order may be applied to her continuing education credits required for certification/licensure;
4. The Applicant shall obtain a Board-approved Supervisor;
5. Prior to signing a supervision agreement with any Board-approved Supervisor, the Applicant shall present a complete copy of the Consent Order to the prospective supervisor;
6. The Applicant shall authorize the Board to provide the Supervisor with this Consent Order and all of the relevant documents in the investigative file, including the Investigative Report and its attachments;
7. The Applicant shall meet with the Board-approved Supervisor for no less than sixty (60) minutes each week throughout the duration of probation;
8. The Supervisor shall submit **quarterly written reports** to the Board for the entire duration of the probation period detailing the supervision provided, outlining topics discussed during each weekly supervision session, and evaluating the Applicant's practice;
9. The Applicant shall have sole responsibility for ensuring that the Supervisor submits the required reports in a timely manner;

10. A negative report from the Supervisor or any failure to comply with the Supervisor's recommendations shall be deemed a violation of probation or of this Consent Order;
11. In the event that the Applicant's Supervisor discontinues supervising the Applicant's practice for any reason during the probationary period, the Applicant shall immediately notify the Board. The Applicant shall be solely responsible for submitting a request for a Board-approved replacement;
12. Prior to accepting employment with any employment that involves counseling, the Applicant shall present a complete copy of the Consent Order to the prospective employer;
13. The Applicant shall report to the Board within Forty-Eight (48) hours any criminal charge filed against her, and keep the Board fully updated regarding the outcome of each charge, within Forty-Eight (48) hours of any disposition;
14. Upon Applicant's conviction for any criminal charge, except minor traffic violations, the Applicant's certification shall be immediately summarily suspended;
15. Upon the Applicant's conviction for any criminal felony charge, the Applicant's certification shall be immediately revoked;
16. The Applicant shall, at all times, comply with the Act and all applicable laws, statutes, and regulations;
17. The Applicant shall at all times cooperate with the Board, any of its agents or employees, and with the Board-assigned inspector, in the monitoring, supervision, and investigation of the Applicant's compliance with the terms and conditions of the Consent Order;

18. In order to obtain further certification, licensure and/or advanced certification or licensure from the Board, the Applicant must successfully complete the terms and conditions of probation as provided in this Consent Order, and submit a written petition to the Board for termination of the probation;
19. After consideration of the written petition for termination of probation, the probation may be terminated through an order of the Board. The Board, at its discretion may grant termination if the Applicant has fully and satisfactorily complied with all the terms and conditions of the Consent Order, there are no pending investigations or complaints against the Applicant, the Supervisor recommends termination of the probation, and the Board deems termination of probation appropriate;
20. If the Applicant fails to make any such petition, then the probationary period status may continue indefinitely, subject to the conditions set forth in this Order;
21. If the Board determines that the terms and conditions of this Order have not been successfully completed, the Board may modify the terms and conditions of Applicant's probation, upon notice to the Applicant;
22. If the Applicant allegedly fails to comply with any term or condition of the Consent Order, the Applicant shall be given notice and opportunity for a hearing. If, in its sole discretion, the Board determines that 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;
23. After an appropriate hearing, if 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, place the Applicant on probation with appropriate terms and conditions, or suspend or revoke the Applicant's certificate(s) and/or licenses 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 under the terms and conditions of the Consent Order; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the effective date of this 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.* (2021 Repl. Vol).

06/23/2023  
Date



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


## CONSENT

I, La'Von Dobie, by affixing my signature hereto, acknowledge that:

1. I am not represented by an attorney and have knowingly and willingly waived my right to the same;
2. I have knowingly and voluntarily agreed to enter into this Consent Order. By this Consent 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 conditions;
3. I am aware that I am entitled to a formal evidentiary hearing, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ § 17-511 (2021 Repl. Vol. and 2022 Supp) and Md. Code Ann., State Gov't §§ 10-201 *et. seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol. and 2020 Supp).
4. I acknowledge the validity and enforceability of this Consent Order as if entered into after the conclusion of a formal evidentiary hearing in which I would have 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 as provided by law. I am waiving those procedural and substantive protections.
5. I voluntarily enter into and agree to abide by the terms and conditions set forth herein as a resolution of the Notice of Intent to Deny against me. I waive my right to contest the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and I waive my right to a full evidentiary hearing, as set forth above, and any right to appeal this Consent Order or any adverse ruling of the Board that might have followed any such hearing.
6. I acknowledge that by failing to abide by the conditions set forth in this Consent Order, I may be subject to further disciplinary actions.

7. I sign this Consent Order voluntarily, without reservation, and I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning and terms of this Consent Order.

6/21/2023  
Date

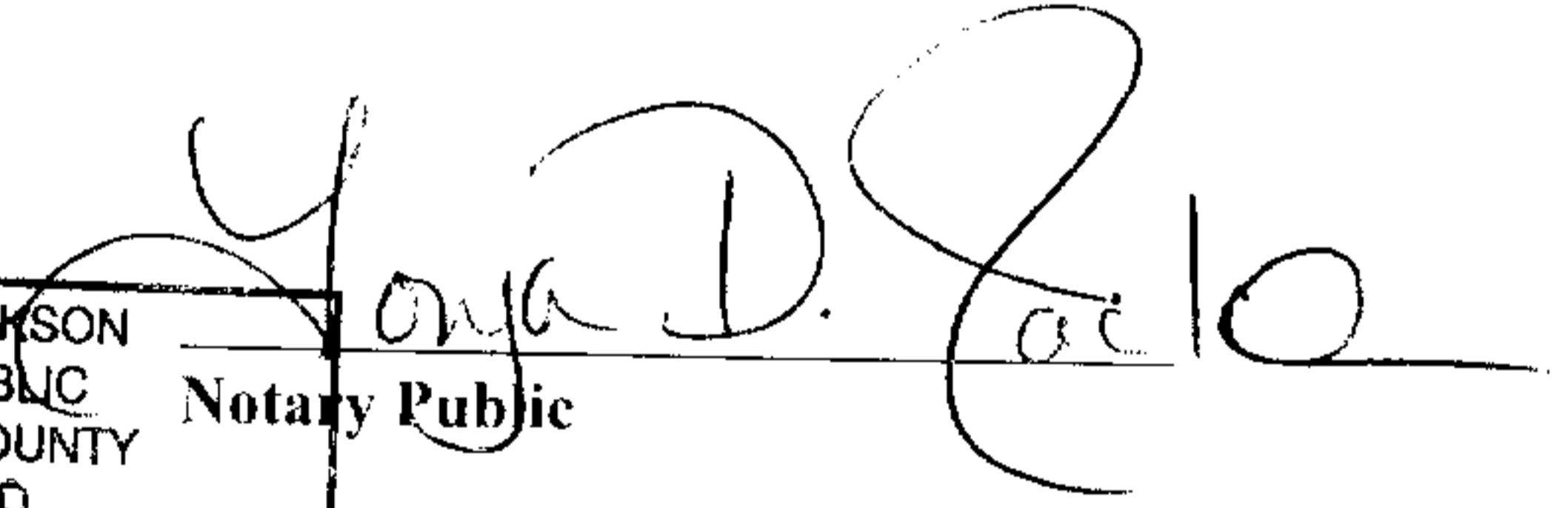
  
La'Von Dobie

NOTARY

STATE OF Maryland  
CITY/COUNTY OF Baltimore

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2023, before me, a Notary Public of the State and City/County aforesaid, personally appeared **La'Von Dobie**, and gave oath in due form of law that the foregoing Consent Order was her voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS, my hand and Notary Seal.

  
Notary Public

TONJA D. JACKSON  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
BALTIMORE COUNTY  
MARYLAND  
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES NOVEMBER 14, 2026

My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_