

IN THE MATTER OF \* BEFORE THE MARYLAND  
WILLIE JUNIOR COPELAND \* BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL  
PROFFSSIONAL COUNSELOR \* COUNSELORS & THERAPISTS  
SC1104 \* CASE NO. 2020-050

\* \* \* \* \*

**ORDER OF SUSPENSION OF REGISTRATION  
FOR DELINQUENT CHILD SUPPORT**

**BACKGROUND**

On or about November 15, 2019, the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the “Board”) received a written request from the Department of Human Resources, Child Support Enforcement (the “Administration”) to suspend the certification held by Willie Junior Copeland (the “Respondent”), SC1104, for delinquent child support. This action was to be taken by authority of Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law § 10-119.3 (2012 Repl. Vol.), which provides, in pertinent part:

(e)(2) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, upon notification by the Administration under this section, a licensing authority<sup>1</sup> shall:

(i) suspend an individual’s license; or

(ii) deny the license of an individual who is an applicant for a license from the licensing authority.

\* \* \*

(h) *Right to contest identity.* – (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, prior to the suspension or denial of a license under subsection (e) of this section, a licensing authority shall send written notice of the proposed action to the individual whose license is subject to suspension or denial, including notice of an

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<sup>1</sup> The Maryland Board of Pharmacy is a unit within the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Md. Code Ann., Health-Gen. §§ 2-101 & 2-106(a)(18), and is therefore a “licensing authority” within the meaning of Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law § 10-119.3(a)(3)(i) and (ii)(2).

Respondent for delinquent child support under the authority of Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law § 10-119.3. The Request stated that, as of November 1, 2019, the arrearage amount of child support that the Respondent owed was \$2,426.87 in the Administration's case numbered 370083992.

3. As noted above, Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law § 10-119.3(e)(2) & (h)(1) requires that the Board suspend the certification of the Respondent upon notification by the Administration and after sending written notice to the Respondent of the proposed suspension of his registration and of his right "to contest the identity of the individual whose [certificate] is to be suspended."

4. On November 18, 2019, the Board sent an unexecuted copy of this Order of Suspension to the Respondent's last known address registered with the Board (the same address as that on the Request). Included with the unexecuted Order of Suspension was a letter notifying Respondent of his right to contest his identity, in writing to the Board, within thirty days of the date of the letter; that is, to contest that he was not the Willie Junior Copeland, SC1104, named by the Administration as the individual whose should be suspended for delinquent child support. In addition, the letter also gave Respondent written notice that if he did not submit to the Board a signed, written appeal on or before December 17, 2019, the Board would execute this Order of Suspension as written.<sup>2</sup>

5. The Respondent did not submit a written contest of identity to the Board by December 17, 2019; nor was the Board notified that the Respondent arranged to pay the arrears in full.

6. Having given the Respondent the statutorily required written notice of the Board's intent to suspend his certification pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law § 10-119.3(e)(2).

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<sup>2</sup> The letter also notified the Respondent that he could prevent the suspension of his registration by contacting the Administration and arranging to pay the arrears in full within 15 days of the date of the letter.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes that, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law § 10-119.3(e)(2)(i), it is statutorily required to suspend the Respondent's certification until the Board receives notification from the Administration that the Respondent's certification should be reinstated pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law § 10-119.3(k)(1)-(2), provided that the Respondent is otherwise qualified for a registration.


### ORDER

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, on this 18 day of December, 2019, by a quorum of the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists, it is hereby:

**ORDERED** that the authorization to practice as a supervised certified counselor held by the Respondent, Willie Junior Copeland, SC1104, is **SUSPENDED**; and it is further,

**ORDERED** that the Respondent's certification shall remain suspended until the Board receives notification from the Child Support Enforcement Administration of the Department of Human Resources that the Respondent's certification should be reinstated pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law § 10-119.3(k)(1)-(2), provided that the Respondent is otherwise qualified for certification; and it is further,

**ORDERED** that this is a Final Order of the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists and, as such, is a public document pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov., §4-333.

  
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Kimberly B. Link, J.D.  
Executive Director  
Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists

## NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS

The Respondent has a right to appeal this Final Order of the Board pursuant to Fam. Law § 10-119.3(i), which provides as follows:

(i) *Appeal; hearing.*—(1)(i) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, an individual may appeal a decision of a licensing authority to suspend or deny the individual's certification in accordance with Title 10, Subtitle 2 of the State Government Article.

(ii) At a hearing under this paragraph, the issue shall be limited to whether the Administration has mistaken the identity of the individual whose certification has been suspended or denied.