

IN THE MATTER OF  
WILLIE JUNIOR COPELAND  
SC1104

\* BEFORE THE MARYLAND STATE  
\* BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL  
\* COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS  
\* CASE NO.: 2020-050

\* \* \* \* \*  
ORDER LIFTING SUSPENSION OF  
CERTIFIED SUPERVISED COUNSELOR-ALCOHOL AND DRUG


On December 18, 2019 the Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the "Board") issued an Order of Suspension for Delinquent Child Support ("Order of Suspension") against Willie Junior Copeland (the "Respondent"), SC1104. The Board suspended the Respondent's certification due to delinquent child support payments upon request from the Department of Human Resources of Child Support Enforcement (the "Administration"), pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law § 10-119.3(e)(2)(i)(2012 Repl. Vol.).

On or about December 31, 2019, the Board received a Notice to Reinstate your certification from the Administration. Pursuant to the Maryland Practice Act, Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 17-101 *et seq.*, the Respondent otherwise qualifies for certification.

Therefore, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law §10-119.3(k), on this 2nd day of January, by the Board, it is hereby:

**ORDERED** that the suspension of the Respondent's certification in Maryland under SC1104 is hereby **LIFTED**; and it is further

**ORDERED** that this is a Final Order of the Board and, as such, is a public document pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Gov't, § 10-617(h).

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

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).

individual's right to contest the identity of the individual whose license or application is to be suspended or denied.

\* \* \*

(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 license 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 license has been suspended or denied.

\* \* \*

(k) *Reinstatement of license—Duty of licensing authority.* – A licensing authority shall immediately reinstate any license suspended, or process an application for any license denied, under this section if:

- (1) notified by the Administration that the license should be reinstated; and
- (2) the individual otherwise qualifies for the license.

On November 18, 2019, the Board sent an unexecuted copy of this Order of Suspension to the Respondent. Accompanying the unexecuted Order of Suspension was a cover letter notifying the Respondent of his right to contest his identity in writing within thirty days of the date of the letter and notifying the Respondent that if he did not submit a signed, written appeal to the Board on or before December 17, 2019, the Board would execute this Order of Suspension as written.

#### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. The Board issued a certification to the Respondent and his certification is currently active and is scheduled to expire on January 31, 2021.
2. On or about November 15, 2019, the Board received a written request from the Administration, entitled "Request to Suspend or Deny Certification for Delinquent Child Support" (the "Request"), which requested that the Board suspend certification held by the

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.