

IN THE MATTER OF	*	BEFORE THE MARYLAND STATE
STEVEN M. GOFF, LCPC	*	BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL
Respondent	*	COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS
Certificate Number: LC8528	*	Case Number: 2020-002

* * * * *

ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION

The Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the “Board”) hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDS** the license of **STEVEN M. GOFF, LCPC** (the “Respondent”), License Number LC8528, to practice as a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (“LCPC”) in the State of Maryland. The Board takes such action pursuant to its authority under Md. Code Ann., State Gov’t § 10-226(c) (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2019 Supp.), concluding that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action. In addition, the Board takes such action pursuant to its authority under Md. Code Regs. (“COMAR”) 10.58.04.10, concluding that there is substantial likelihood that the Respondent poses a risk of harm to the public health, safety, or welfare.

INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS

The Board bases its action on the following findings:¹

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

¹ The statements regarding the Board’s investigative findings are intended to provide the Respondent with notice of the basis of the summary suspension. They are not intended as, and do not necessarily represent,

practice as an LCPC in the State of Maryland on March 9, 2018, under License Number LC8528. The Respondent's license is current and is scheduled to expire on January 31, 2020.

II. COMPLAINT

2. On or about July 1, 2019, the Board received an anonymous complaint. The complaint stated in part: "I am a resident of Galveston, TX and came across this article on Steven Goff – who is facing charges in connection with the sexual assault of a girl – 13 years old. Steven Goff holds a license in Texas and Maryland as an LPC."
3. After receiving the complaint, the Board initiated an investigation of the Respondent under Case Number 2020-002.

III. BOARD INVESTIGATION

4. The Board's investigator contacted the Texas Board of Professional Counselors ("TX Board"). Staff at the TX Board confirmed that the Respondent holds a licensed professional counselor license in Texas, license number 69686. The Respondent's Texas license is currently non-renewed.
5. In addition, the Board requested records from the 10th Judicial District Court in Galveston County, Texas. The Respondent currently has two (2) pending felony cases:

a complete description of the evidence, either documentary or testimonial, to be offered against the Respondent in connection with this matter.

- (Case 19-CR-2013) On or about June 24, 2019, in the 10th Judicial District Court for Galveston County, Texas, the Respondent was charged with one count of Sexual Perform Child Employ Induce/Authorize, a second-degree felony.
- (Case 19-CR-2014) On or about June 24, 2019, in the 10th Judicial District Court for Galveston County, Texas, the Respondent was charged with a second count of Sexual Perform Child Employ Induce/Authorize, a second-degree felony.

6. A trial date has not been set in either case as of the time of this notice

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing facts, the Board concludes that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively require emergency action in this case, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-226 (c)(2) (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2019 Supp.).

In addition, the Board concludes as a matter of law that there is a substantial likelihood that the Respondent poses a risk of harm to the public health, safety, or welfare, pursuant to COMAR 10.58.04.10.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing, it is by a majority of the Board considering this case:

ORDERED that pursuant to the authority vested by Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-226(c)(2), the Respondent's license to practice as a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor in the State of Maryland, License Number LC8528, is hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDED**; and be it further

ORDERED that the Respondent has the opportunity to appear before the Board for a post-deprivation show cause hearing. A request for a post-deprivation show cause hearing must be in writing and be made **WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS** of service of this Order.

The written request should be made to:

Kimberly Link, J.D., Executive Director
Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors & Therapists
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

With copies to:

Karen Malinowski, Assistant Attorney General
Maryland Office of the Attorney General
Health Occupations Prosecution & Litigation Division
300 West Preston Street, Suite 201
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

and

Rhonda Edwards, Assistant Attorney General
Maryland Office of the Attorney General
300 West Preston Street, Suite 302
Baltimore, Maryland 21201; and it is further

ORDERED that if the Respondent fails to request a post-deprivation show cause hearing in writing in a timely manner, or if the Respondent requests a post-deprivation show cause hearing but fails to appear when scheduled, the Respondent's license will remain **SUSPENDED**; and it is further

ORDERED that on presentation of this Order, the Respondent **SHALL SURRENDER** to the Board, the following items:

- (1) the Respondent's original Maryland Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor License LC8528; and

(2) the Respondent's wallet card and wall license; and it is further

ORDERED that this is an Order of the Board and, as such, is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Provisions §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2014).

November 7, 2019

Date

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Risa Ganel / L.C." is written over a horizontal line.

Risa Ganel, LCMFT, Chair
Maryland State Board of Professional
Counselors and Therapists