

IN THE MATTER OF * BEFORE THE MARYLAND
BRITTANY LIBERTO, ADT * STATE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL
RESPONDENT * COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS
Trainee Number: ADT 1787 * Case Number: 2019-080

* * * * *

PRE-CHARGE CONSENT ORDER OF REPRIMAND

In March 2019, the Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the “Board”) initiated an investigation of Brittany Liberto, ADT (Alcohol Drug Trainee), License Number ADT 1787 (hereinafter referred to as the “Respondent”). Based on its investigation, the Board voted to offer a Pre-Charge Consent Order of Reprimand to the Respondent, in lieu of issuing Charges for violations of the Maryland Professional Counselors and Therapists Act (the “Act”), codified at Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. (“Health Occ.”) §§ 17-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2018 Supp.), and the regulations adopted by the Board, at Md. Code Regs. (“COMAR”) §§ 10.58.01 *et seq.*

Specifically, the Respondent appears to have violated the following provisions of the Act and COMAR:

Health Occ. § 17-509. Denial, probation, suspension, or revocation of certificate applicant or holder.

- (8) Violates the code of ethics adopted by the Board;
- (13) Violates any rule of regulation adopted by the Board; and
- (16) Commits an act of immoral or unprofessional conduct in the practice of clinical or nonclinical counseling or therapy;

COMAR 10.58.03. Code of Ethics.

.04 Ethical Responsibility.

B. A counselor may not:

(3) Enter into relationships that could compromise a counselor's objectivity or create a conflict of interest.

.05 Counseling Relationship.

B. Dual Relationships.

(1) A counselor shall:

(a) Avoid dual relationships with clients;

The Board offered the Respondent an opportunity to settle this matter rather than pursuing formal charges against the Respondent. As a result of that offer, the Respondent and the Board agreed to the following Consent Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board finds the following facts.

Background

1. On or about July 31, 2018, the Respondent received her ADT authorization in the State of Maryland under Trainee Number ADT1787. The Respondent's authorization to work as an ADT will expire on or about July 31, 2020.

Complaint

2. On or about March 2019, the Board received a complaint alleging that while the Respondent was working at treatment center, "Facility A" she engaged in a personal relationship with an active client, "Client A".¹

Investigation

In August 2019, the Board's investigation revealed the following:

¹ For confidentiality and privacy purposes, the names of individuals and facilities involved in this case are not disclosed in this document.

3. The Respondent was not Client A's primary therapist.
4. The Respondent conducted Client A's intake evaluation.
5. The Respondent met with Client A privately on two occasions outside of Facility A.
6. The Respondent voluntarily disclosed to her supervisor that she was communicating with Client A outside the treatment center.
7. The Respondent ended all contact with Client A after she discussed these events with her supervisor.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board finds as a matter of law that the Respondent's conduct, as described above, constitutes a violation of §17-509 (8), (13) and (16) and COMAR 10.58.03.04 and .05.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is hereby by a majority of the Board members considering this case:

ORDERED that the Respondent is hereby **REPRIMANDED**; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent shall complete a three (3) credit college ethics course related to substance abuse and/or counseling and submit proof of completion with a grade of a "C" or better to the Board within one year of the date of this Order; and it is further

ORDERED if the Board finds, after providing the Respondent with notice and a hearing, that the Respondent failed to comply with the condition set forth above, the Board may impose any disciplinary sanction and/or penalty it deems appropriate

pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 17-509, 17-510 (2014 Repl. Vol. and 2018 Supp.).

ORDERED that this Pre-Charge Consent Order of Reprimand is a public document, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov., § 4-333 (2014 Repl. Vol.) and is reportable to any entity to which the Board is obligated to report.

10/18/19
Date

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

CONSENT

I, Brittany Liberto, ADT, acknowledge that I have had been made aware of my right to consult with counsel before signing this document. By this Consent, I accept a Reprimand in lieu of a formal evidentiary hearing on violations of the Act and COMAR contained in this Consent Order.

I acknowledge the validity of this Consent Order as if entered into after the conclusion of a formal evidentiary hearing in which I would have had 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 waive any rights I may have had to contest the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law. I acknowledge the legal authority and the jurisdiction of the Board to initiate these proceedings and to issue and enforce this Consent Order. I also affirm that I waive my right to appeal any adverse ruling of the Board that might have followed any such hearing.

I sign this Consent Order after having had an opportunity to consult with counsel, without reservation, and I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning and terms of this Consent Order. I voluntarily sign this Consent Order and I understand its meaning and effect.

10.09.2019

Date

Brittany Liberto

Brittany Liberto, ADT
Respondent

NOTARY

STATE OF Maryland

CITY/COUNTY OF:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 9 day of October 2019,
before me, a Notary Public of the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared Brittany
Liberto, ADT, 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.

Lillian Joann Sykes

Notary Public

My commission expires: January 19, 2023