

Received

AMY EASLEY, LCSW-C

JUN 20 2024

Date: May 31, 2024

Maryland Board of
Social Work Examiners

Susan Coppage, LCSW-C
Board Chair
State Board of Social Work Examiners
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

RE: Surrender of Social Work License
License Number: 09465
Case Number: 2022-3262

Dear Ms. Coppage and Members of the Board:

Please be advised that I have decided to **SURRENDER** my license to practice social work in the State of Maryland, License Number: 09465 effective immediately. I understand that upon surrender of my license, I may not practice social work, with or without compensation, or otherwise engage in the practice of social work, as defined in the Maryland Social Workers Practice Act (the "Act"), Md. Code Ann., Health Occupations. ("Health Occ.") §§ 19-101 *et seq.*, (2021 Repl. Vol. and 2023 Supp.) and other applicable laws. In other words, as of the effective date of this Letter of Surrender, I understand that I am in the same position as an unlicensed individual in the State of Maryland.

I understand that this Letter of Surrender is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT**, and, on the Board's acceptance becomes a **FINAL ORDER** of the Board.

My decision to surrender my license to practice social work in the State of Maryland has been prompted by an investigation of my license by the Maryland State Board of Social Work Examiners (the "Board"). The results of the investigation led the Board to issue disciplinary charges against me on or about May 13, 2024, under Case Number: 2022-3262.

I acknowledge that the Board issued Charges Under the Maryland Social Workers Practice Act (the "Charging Document") based on my conduct as a licensed certified social worker. I also acknowledge that the Board's investigation revealed the following information as alleged in the Charging Document:

- a) On or about October 27, 2022, the Board received a complaint (the "Complaint") from a psychologist (the "Complainant"). The Complaint stated in part:

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BACKGROUND: To be clear, I know Amy Easley- I had previously worked with Ms. Easley, both directly and indirectly. However, I have not corresponded with Ms. Easley, LCSW-C in 16 years or so.

STATEMENT OF COMPLAINT: My colleague, ["Educational Consultant"], reached out to me on October 24, 2022, to ask me about a letter and plan I allegedly co-authored with Amy L. Easley, LCSW-C on October 20, 2022, regarding a [local public school system] student. I knew nothing about this student or letter, and I asked [Educational Consultant] to send me a copy of the letter and plan she had received as part of an e-mail exchange involving Ms. Easley, the parents of the student, and three [local public school system] staff.

Upon reviewing the letter and emails, I see that Ms. Easley had opined that the student "was placed on medical leave," that she would require an emergency IEP, etc. Ms. Easley added my nameplate to the letter next to her nameplate and (obviously) forged my signature, in what appears to be her penmanship. I can only assume Ms. Easley invoked my name to leverage a physician's authority to sign off on Home and Hospital schooling and to invoke an IEP, both of which are based on procedures anchored to federal law.

I am not involved in this student's case in any way, nor am I associated with Ms. Easley. I have never [met] with or spoken to this student, nor have I met with or spoken to these parents, nor have I discussed this case with Ms. Easley or [local public school system] staff.

- b) In her written response to the Board, the Respondent admitted that she "signed the letter recommending medical leave and added [the Complainant's] signature without his permission and sent it to [the student's father]."
- c) In her under-oath interview the Respondent stated that "the parents did not know or have consent for [Educational Consultant] to contact [Complainant]. Mom's therapist had said that it was a violation of HIPAA. I immediately realized that I should not have done what I did. I contacted [Complainant] immediately and the parents immediately, told them that it was not [Complainant's] signature, that we needed to contact the school, which I did. And on 10/24, I had left a message . . . I left a detailed message with the [school] secretary stating that the letter was incorrect, it was not [Complainant's] signature, and we would be following up with the appropriate letter from [the student's] pediatrician, and the new letter would be forthcoming."

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I recognize that if the Board were to proceed with the Charging Document and an evidentiary hearing in this matter, the State would be able to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that I violated certain provisions of the Act including:

§ 19-311 – Denials, reprimands, suspensions, and revocations – Grounds.

Subject to the hearing provisions of § 19-312 of this subtitle, the Board may deny a license to any applicant, fine a licensee, reprimand any licensee, place any licensee on probation, or suspend or revoke a license if the applicant or licensee:

- (4) Commits any act of gross negligence, incompetence, or misconduct in the practice of social work;
- (5) Engages in a course of conduct that is inconsistent with generally accepted professional standards in the practice of social work;
- (6) Violates any provision of this title or regulations governing the practice of social work adopted and published by the Board;
- (11) Makes or files a false report or record in the practice of social work[.]

The pertinent provisions of COMAR, the code of ethics, provide the following:

COMAR 10.42.03.03 – Responsibilities to Clients

B. The licensee may not:

- (1) Participate or condone dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation;
- (2) Misrepresent professional qualifications, education, experience, or affiliation[.]

I have voluntarily, knowingly, and freely chosen to submit this Letter of Surrender. I understand that, by the execution of this Letter of surrender, I am waiving the right to contest the allegations in a formal evidentiary hearing at 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 provided by the law, including the right to appeal.

I acknowledge that upon my execution of this Letter of Surrender, I shall surrender to the Board my Maryland Social Work license, License number 09465, including any wall certificate, renewal certificates, and wall-sized renewal cards in my possession.

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I understand that the Board will advise the Association of State Boards of Social Work, the National Practitioners' Data Bank, any other required entities of this Letter of Surrender, and in any response to any inquiry, that I have surrendered my license in lieu of further disciplinary action under the Act. I also understand that in the event I would apply for license in any form in any other state or jurisdiction, that this Letter of Surrender and the underlying investigative documents including the Charging Document may be released or published by the Board to the same extent as a final order that would result from disciplinary action, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Govt., § 10611 et seq., (2021 Repl. Vol.). Finally, I understand that this Letter of Surrender is considered a disciplinary action by the Board.

I recognize and agree that by submitting this Letter of Surrender, my license will remain surrendered unless and until the Board grants reinstatement of my license. I understand that if I apply for reinstatement of my Maryland license, the Board or its successor has absolute discretion to grant or deny my application for reinstatement. If the Board does grant reinstatement, it may impose any terms and conditions the Board considers appropriate for public safety and the protection of the integrity and reputation of the profession. I further understand that if I file a petition for reinstatement, I approach the Board or its successor in the same position as an individual whose license has been revoked. I also understand that if I apply for reinstatement, I bear the burden of demonstrating my professional competence and fitness to practice social work to the satisfaction of the Board.

I acknowledge that I may not rescind this Letter of Surrender in part or in its entirety for any reason whatsoever. I have been advised of my right to be represented by the attorney of my choice throughout proceedings before the Board, including the right to counsel with an attorney prior to signing this Letter of Surrender. I understand both the nature of the Board's actions and this Letter of Surrender fully. I acknowledge that I understand and comprehend the language, meaning and terms and effect of this Letter of Surrender. I voluntarily choose to surrender my Maryland license to practice social work pursuant to the terms and conditions set out herein. I make this decision knowingly and voluntarily.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Easley", written in a cursive style.

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NOTARY

STATE/DISTRICT OF

CITY/COUNTY OF

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 3rd day of June, 2024, before me, a Notary Public of the State/District and City/County aforesaid, personally appeared, **Amy Easley, LCSW-C**, License Number: 09465, and declared and affirmed under the penalties of perjury that signing the foregoing Letter of Surrender was her voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS my hand and Notarial seal.



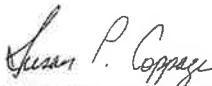
Notary Public



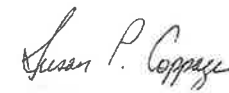
My commission expires: 12/23/24

ACCEPTANCE

On this 26th day of June, 2024, I, Susan Coppage, LCSW-C, Board Chair, on behalf of the Maryland State Board of Social Work Examiners, accept the **VOLUNTARY SURRENDER** of the license of **Amy Easley** to practice social work in the State of Maryland.



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Board Chair
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