

Received

NOV 21 2018

Board of Social
Work Examiners

ANDREA LOPES, LCSW-C
[REDACTED]

Date: 11/20/18

State Board of Social Work Examiners
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

RE: Surrender of Social Work License
License Number: 11095
Case Number: 17-2348

Dear 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 No.: 11095, effective immediately. I acknowledge that I am represented by counsel and that I have received the advice of counsel in this matter.

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 in the State of Maryland as it is defined in the Maryland Social Work Act (the Act), Md. Code Ann., Health Occupations ("Health Occ.") §§ 19-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2017 Supp.) and other applicable laws.

In other words, as of the effective date of this Letter of Surrender, I understand that the surrender of my license means 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") and the Office of the Attorney General.

Andrea Lopes, LCSW-C.
Re: Letter of Surrender
License No.: 11095, Case No.: 17-2348
Page 2 of 4

The results of the investigation led the Board to issue Charges Under the Maryland Social Work Act ("Charges") against me under Case Number 17-2348.

I have decided to surrender my license to practice social work in the State of Maryland to avoid further prosecution of the Charges now pending before the Board. I acknowledge that if this matter were to go to a hearing the Board would be able to offer enough evidence to prove the charges by a preponderance of the evidence. I acknowledge that I was involved in a sexual relationship with a former client, "Client A."

I met Client A, when he worked for a close family member, who provided contractor services at the office I shared with a business partner. Client A was a contractor employee and performed work at my office. I provided therapy to Client A beginning in 2012, and the counseling relationship with Client A ended in October 2013.

I allowed Client A to live in the basement of my home from November 2013 to December 2013. Client A voluntarily performed repair and maintenance jobs at my home. I became involved in a sexual relationship with Client A from January 2014 to September 2014. I understand that if this matter were to proceed to trial that the Board will be able to call witnesses that will testify that I had a sexual relationship with Client A.

The Board charged me with violating Md. Code Ann., Health Occupations II (Health Occ. II) § 19-311: (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; and (6) Violates any provision of this title or regulations governing the practice of social work adopted and published by the Board.

The Board also charged me with violating the following regulations: Code Md. Reg. ("COMAR") 10.42.03. 03B. (1), (3), and (6); COMAR 10.42.03.05A and C-F.

I wish to make it clear that I have voluntarily, knowingly and freely chosen to submit this Letter of Surrender to avoid prosecution of the aforementioned Charges under the Act. I acknowledge that if the case were to proceed to an evidentiary hearing, the Board would be able to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that I violated the Act and regulations as charged. I acknowledge that for all purposes relevant to licensure as a social worker, those investigative findings will be treated as if proven.

I understand that by executing this Letter of Surrender I am waiving any right to contest the charges in a formal evidentiary hearing at which I would have had the right to

Andrea Lopes, LCSW-C.
Re: Letter of Surrender
License No.: 11095, Case No.: 17-2348
Page 3 of 4

counsel, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my own behalf and all other substantive and procedural protections provided by law, including the right to appeal.

I understand that the Board will advise the National Practitioners' Data Bank 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 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. State Gov't. Code Ann. § 10-611 *et seq.*, (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2017 Suppl.), and that this Letter of Surrender is considered a disciplinary action by the Board.

I acknowledge that upon the Board's acceptance of this Letter of Surrender, I shall present to the Board any license documents that I have in my possession.

I further recognize and agree that by submitting this Letter of Surrender, my social work license in Maryland will be surrendered.

I acknowledge that I may not rescind this Letter of Surrender in part or in its entirety for any reason whatsoever.

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.

Very truly yours,


Andrea Lopes

Andrea Lopes, LCSW-C.
Re: Letter of Surrender
License No.: 11095, Case No.: 17-2348
Page 4 of 4

NOTARY

STATE OF MARYLAND

CITY/COUNTY OF Montgomery

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 20 day of November 2018, before me, a Notary Public of the State and City/County aforesaid, personally appeared **Andrea Lopes, LCSW-C** 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.


WILLIAM J WATSON JR
Notary Public-Maryland
Montgomery County
My Commission Expires
April 11, 2022


Notary Public

My Commission expires: 4/11/2022

ACCEPTANCE

On this 30 day of November, 2018, I, on behalf of the Maryland State Board of Social Work Examiners, accept the **SURRENDER** of the license of **ANDREA LOPES, LCSW-C** to practice social work in the State of Maryland.


Sherryl Silberman, LCSW-C, Board Chair
Maryland State Board of Social Work
Examiners