

IN THE MATTER OF * **BEFORE THE MARYLAND STATE**
INDIA D. HARDING, RCYCP * **BOARD FOR THE CERTIFICATION**
Respondent * **OF RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE**
Certificate Number: Y02364 * **PROGRAM PROFESSIONALS**
* **CASE NUMBER: 2024-013**

* * * * *

**FINAL ORDER OF REVOCATION OF
RESIDENTIAL CHILD AND YOUTH CARE PRACTITIONER CERTIFICATION**

On or about April 17, _____, 2025, the Maryland State Board for the Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals (the “Board”) notified **INDIA D. HARDING, RCYCP** (the “Respondent”), of the Board’s intent to **REVOKE** her certification to practice as a Residential Child and Youth Care Practitioner in the State of Maryland, Certificate Number Y02364, pursuant to the Maryland Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals Act (the “Act”), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 20-101 *et seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol. & 2024 Supp.).

In the Notice of Intent to Revoke, the Board informed the Respondent of the opportunity for an evidentiary hearing, and that, unless the Respondent submitted a written request for a hearing within thirty (30) days of service of the Notice, the Board would sign the unexecuted Final Order of Revocation enclosed with the Notice. More than thirty (30) days have elapsed since service of the Notice, and the Respondent has not requested a hearing.

Accordingly, based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law herein, the Board hereby revokes the Respondent’s certification to practice as a Residential Child and Youth Care Practitioner in the State of Maryland.

Final Order of Revocation

Maryland State Board for the Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals Case No. 2024-013

India D. Harding, RCYCP Certificate No. Y02364

Page 2 of 7

The Board bases its action on the following provisions of the Act:

Health Occ. § 20-313. Investigations by Board; grounds for discipline

- (b) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 20-314 of this subtitle, the Board may deny a certificate to any applicant, reprimand any certified program administrator or certified residential child and youth care practitioner, place any certified program administrator or certified residential child and youth care practitioner on probation, or suspend or revoke a certificate if the applicant, certified program administrator, or certified residential child and youth care practitioner:
 - (1) Fraudulently or deceptively obtains or attempts to obtain a certificate for a program administrator or residential child and youth care practitioner, or for another;
 - (3) Otherwise fails to meet substantially the standards for certification adopted by the Board under § 20-205 of this title.¹

Health Occ. § 20-302.1. Certification Process – Character, education requirements.

- (a) To qualify for a certificate as a residential child and youth care practitioner, an applicant shall be an individual who meets the requirements of this section.
- (b) The applicant shall be of good moral character.
- (c) The applicant shall have completed:
 - (2) Unless waived by the Board under § 20-303(d) of this subtitle, a child protective services background clearance.

¹ Health Occ. § 20-205 states, *inter alia*, that the Board shall “establish standards for the certification of applicants” and “adopt regulations to carry out the provisions if this subtitle.”

Final Order of Revocation

Maryland State Board for the Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals Case No. 2024-013

India D. Harding, RCYCP Certificate No. Y02364

Page 3 of 7

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board makes the following findings of fact:

Initial Application - 2022

1. On or about March 7, 2022, the Board received the Respondent’s initial application (the “Initial Application”) to practice as a Residential Child and Youth Care Practitioner (“RCYPC”) in the State of Maryland.

2. The Respondent signed the Initial Application in the presence of a Notary on February 23, 2022, affirming “that the information in this application contains no willful misrepresentation or falsification and that the information given to me is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. [...] I also understand that any willful misrepresentation is cause for immediate denial of the application or later revocation of the certificate.”

3. Despite affirming that the Initial Application contained no willful misrepresentations of falsification, the Respondent falsely answered “no” to question 9: “Have you ever been named as the perpetrator of child abuse or neglect by a State agency after an investigation?”

4. The Board received a letter from the Maryland Department of Human Services (“DHS”) dated March 24, 2022 stating that, “A Child Protective Services (CPS) background clearance request was received concerning [the Respondent],” and the Department “has no record identifying [the Respondent] as being responsible for ‘indicated’ child abuse/neglect in the State of Maryland.”

Final Order of Revocation

Maryland State Board for the Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals Case No. 2024-013

India D. Harding, RCYCP Certificate No. Y02364

Page 4 of 7

5. Unaware of the Respondent's CPS history, the Board certified the Respondent as a Residential Child and Youth Care Practitioner ("RCYCP") with the issuance of Certificate Number Y02364 on June 17, 2022.

Renewal Application - 2024

6. On or about September 3, 2024, the Board received the Respondent's application to renew (the "Renewal Application") her RCYCP certification, which had an expiration date of September 30, 2024.

7. The Respondent signed the Renewal Application on August 20, 2024, affirming "that the information in this application contains no willful misrepresentation or falsification and the information given to me is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. [...] I also understand that any willful misrepresentation is cause for immediate denial of the application, or later revocation of the certificate."

8. Despite affirming that the Renewal Application contained no willful misrepresentations or falsification, the Respondent falsely answered "no" to question 9: "Have you ever been named as the perpetrator of child abuse or neglect by a State agency after an investigation?"

9. The Board first became aware that the Respondent's statements in her Initial Application and Renewal Application were false when the Board received a letter from DHS dated September 25, 2024 stating that, "We are currently unable to process the Child Protective Services background clearance for [the Respondent]" and "I am unable to process this application as the applicant has CPS history in Baltimore County."

Final Order of Revocation

Maryland State Board for the Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals Case No. 2024-013

India D. Harding, RCYCP Certificate No. Y02364

Page 5 of 7

10. After DHS informed the Board that the Respondent has CPS history in Baltimore County, the Board requested CPS records from the Baltimore County Department of Social Services (“DSS”). The records confirmed that, after DSS conducted an investigation in Case Number 20200237030831, in which the Respondent was the alleged maltreater and a juvenile female relative of the Respondent (the “Child”)² was the alleged victim, DSS, on or about October 16, 2020, concluded that “Neglect of [the Child] is ‘**INDICATED**’³ in accordance with the provisions of Maryland Code Ann., Fam. Law § 5-701(m), (s) and COMAR 07.02.07.12A(1)” based on evidence that the Respondent failed to provide proper care and that there was a substantial risk of harm to the child. DSS further found that:

Due to the previous sexual abuse indicated finding, [the Respondent] was aware at case closure that [the Child] was to have no further contact with [the Respondent’s husband]. [The Respondent] put the child at significant risk of harm to [be] sexually abused again by [the Respondent’s husband] by having the child live in the home, having [the Child] at the wedding of her and [her husband], and not informing relatives that [the Child] was to have no[] contact with [the Respondent’s husband] resulting [in] them having contact at a family party. Further, she never followed the safety plan initially and [the Child] reported that right after the forensic interview, [the Respondent’s husband] was picked up while [the Child] was in the car and they went to the mall.

² For confidentiality and privacy purposes, the names of individuals and facilities involved in this case are not disclosed in this document. This information will be disclosed to the Respondent upon request.

³ Per Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law § 5-701, “Indicated” means a finding that there is credible evidence, which has not been satisfactorily refuted, that abuse, neglect, or sexual abuse did occur.”

Final Order of Revocation

Maryland State Board for the Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals Case No. 2024-013

India D. Harding, RCYCP Certificate No. Y02364

Page 6 of 7

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes as a matter of law that the Respondent’s conduct, as described above, in whole or in part, constitutes grounds for action pursuant to Health Occ. § 20-313. Specifically, the Respondent’s conduct that resulted in a CPS “neglect indicated” finding constitutes a violation of Health Occ. § 20-313(b)(3) (otherwise fails to meet standards for certification) and Health Occ. § 20-302.1(b) (lacks good moral character); the Respondent’s failure to disclose the CPS “neglect indicated” finding in the Initial Application and the Renewal Application constitutes a violation of Health Occ. § 20-313(b)(1) (fraudulently or deceptively obtains or attempts to obtain a certificate), Health Occ. § 20-313(b)(3) (otherwise fails to meet standards for certification), and Health Occ. § 20-302.1(b) (lacks good moral character); and the Respondent’s failure to procure a CPS background clearance constitutes grounds for action under Health Occ. § 20-313(b)(3) (otherwise fails to meet standards for certification) and Health Occ. § 20-302.1(c) (failure to complete CPS background clearance).

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 13th day of JUNE, 2025, by the vote of a quorum of the Board, hereby:

ORDERED that the certification to practice as a Residential Child and Youth Care Practitioner in the State of Maryland held by the Respondent, **INDIA D. HARDING**, Certificate Number Y02364, is hereby **REVOKED**; and it is further

Final Order of Revocation

Maryland State Board for the Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals Case No. 2024-013

India D. Harding, RCYCP Certificate No. Y02364

Page 7 of 7

ORDERED that this **FINAL ORDER** is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. §§ 4-101 *et seq.*

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

Pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 20-315, the Respondent may petition for judicial review of this final decision of the Board as allowed by the Maryland Administrative Procedure Act. Any petition for judicial review shall be filed within thirty (30) days of the date of this Final Order and shall be made as provided for in the Maryland Administrative Procedure Act, Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-222, and Title 7, Chapter 200 of the Maryland Rules.

If the Respondent files an appeal, the Board is a party and should be served with the court's process at the following address:

Darlene Ham, MSW, Executive Director
Maryland State Board for the Certification
of Residential Child Care Program Professionals
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215
darlene.ham1@maryland.gov

At that point, the Administrative Prosecutor is no longer a party to this case and need not be served or copied.

6/17/2025

Date

DocuSigned by:
Janet Furman
1DC3C495F097463...

Janet Furman, Chair
Maryland State Board for the Certification of Residential
Child Care Program Professionals