

Richard Bent
License No. M054084

Stephen Conti, LMT
Chair, Maryland State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners
c/o Sharon J. Oliver, Executive Director
4201 Patterson Avenue, Suite 302
Baltimore, MD 21215

Re: Surrender of License to Practice as a Licensed Massage Therapist
License Number M054084

Dear Mr. Conti:

I agree to voluntarily surrender my license to practice as a licensed massage therapist ("LMT") in the State of Maryland, license number M05084, to the Maryland State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners (the "Board"). I understand that, if this surrender is accepted, I may not practice as an LMT, with or without compensation, as it is defined in the Maryland Massage Therapy Act (the "Act"), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. ("HO") § 6-101 *et seq.* and the Board's regulations, COMAR 10.65.01 *et seq.* In other words, as of the effective date of this Letter of Surrender, I understand that I am in the same position as an individual who is not licensed to practice as an LMT. I understand that this Letter of Surrender shall become a public document and shall take effect on the date of the Board's acceptance of this Letter of Surrender. I agree that this letter may be released or published by the Board as a final decision and order under the Public Information Act, Md. Code Ann., General Provisions §§ 4-101 *et seq.*

The desire to surrender my license stems from a disciplinary order (the "Order") that the Board issued on or about April 23, 2025, which placed my LMT license on probation, subject to certain terms and conditions, for a minimum of three (3) years. On or about November 3, 2025, I received notice from the Board that I was in violation of the terms of the Order, specifically that I had failed to provide the Board with evidence that I completed a Board-approved course in Professional Ethics within six (6) months of the date of the Order; failed to provide the Board with evidence that I completed a Board-approved course in Professional Boundaries within six (6) months of the date of the Order; and that I had failed to submit written quarterly self-reports as required by the Order. After receipt of the Board's letter regarding the status of my probation, on November 7, 2023, I notified the Board, in relevant part, that "[a]fter exploring my options, applying for multiple positions, and failing to become gainfully employed in the field of massage therapy, I decided to discontinue my pursuit of any line of work regulated by the Maryland State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners." I understand that the Board has cause at this moment to forward this matter to the Health Occupations Prosecution and Litigation Division of the Maryland Office of the Attorney General for the initiation of formal violation of probation proceedings; however, given that I am no longer practicing massage therapy in the State of Maryland and that I have no desire to participate in violation of probation proceedings before the Board, I wish to

surrender my license at this time.

In executing this agreement to surrender my license to practice as an LMT to the Board, I agree that I will not apply for reinstatement for a period of **THREE (3) YEARS** following the date of the Board's acceptance of this Letter of Surrender. I also agree that if, after a period of **THREE (3) YEARS**, I decide to apply for reinstatement as an LMT in Maryland, I will approach the Board in the same posture as an unlicensed individual whose license has been revoked. In considering my application for reinstatement, the Board may review my entire Board file, including any information received by the Board after the execution of this letter. I understand that it will be my burden, as an applicant for reinstatement, to demonstrate that I meet all of the Board's requirements for reinstatement of my license at the time I submit a reinstatement application. I understand that if the Board reinstates my license, it will be reinstated through the Board's disciplinary process and that my license will only be reinstated by the Board's issuance of a public order of reinstatement and that the Board may, in its discretion, place my reinstated license on probation subject to terms and conditions.

I acknowledge that upon the execution of this Letter of Surrender, I shall surrender to the Board any indicia of Maryland license that is in my possession, including my Maryland license to practice massage therapy, number M05484, and any wall certificate. I understand that the Board will advise the National Practitioner Data Bank of this Letter of Surrender, and in any response to an inquiry, that I have surrendered my license in lieu of potential disciplinary action under the Act that the Board may institute. I also understand that in the event I should apply for licensure/license in any form in any other state or jurisdiction, this Letter of Surrender, and all underlying 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. Code Ann., General Prov. §§ 4-101 *et seq.*

I wish to make it clear that I have voluntarily, knowingly, and freely chosen to submit this Letter of Surrender. I understand that, by executing this Letter of Surrender, I am waiving the right, now and in the future to any evidentiary hearing at which I would have the right to counsel, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my own behalf, to contest the facts summarized in the second paragraph of this Letter of Surrender and at which I would have the right to all other substantive and procedural protections provided by law, including the right to appeal.

I acknowledge that I may not rescind this Letter of Surrender in part or in its entirety for any reason whatsoever. I understand the nature and effect of both the Board's actions and this Letter of Surrender fully. Finally, I wish to make clear that I have had an opportunity to discuss this matter with legal counsel, and I willingly, knowingly, and voluntarily sign this letter of surrender.

Sincerely,


Richard Bent, License No. M05484

11/21/25
Date

NOTARIZATION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 21st day of November 2025, before me, Notary Public of the State and City/County aforesaid, **Richard Bent** personally appeared, and made oath in due form of law that signing the foregoing Letter of Surrender was the voluntary act and deed of **Richard Bent**.

AS WITNESSETH my hand and notarial seal.

SEAL

Charlene Faison
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 2-2-2029

ACCEPTANCE

ON BEHALF OF THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY EXAMINERS, on this 10TH day of DECEMBER, 2025, I accept **Richard Bent**'s public Letter of Surrender of his license to practice as a licensed massage therapist in the State of Maryland.

Sharon Oliver
Sharon J. Oliver, MBA
Executive Director
Maryland State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners