

IN THE MATTER OF

*

BEFORE THE MARYLAND

CONNIE CHOU

*

STATE BOARD OF

APPLICANT

*

PHARMACY

*

Case No. 21-216

* * * * *

CONSENT ORDER FOR INITIAL LICENSURE

HISTORY

On or about June 24, 2020, the Maryland Board of Pharmacy (the “Board”) received an application for licensure as a pharmacist by reciprocity from Connie Chou, Pharm.D. On her application, Dr. Chou answered “yes” to personal attestation questions regarding her disciplinary history in another state and her criminal history. Based on the information submitted by Dr. Chou and concerns about her mental and physical competency, the Board ordered Dr. Chou to undergo an evaluation with a Board-approved evaluator. The Board received a report of Dr. Chou’s evaluation on or about March 7, 2021, in which the evaluator opined that Dr. Chou could safely and competently practice pharmacy in Maryland with ongoing monitoring.

In lieu of pursuing formal proceedings, in accordance with the Maryland Pharmacy Act, Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 12-101 *et seq.*, the Board held a Case Resolution Conference (“CRC”) with members of the Board, Board Counsel, and Dr. Chou on June 9, 2021. Thereafter, the Board and Dr. Chou agreed to resolve this matter as set forth in this Consent Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On or about June 24, 2020, the Board received an application for licensure by reciprocity from Dr. Chou. On her application, Dr. Chou answered “yes” to two personal attestation questions – Question 1, which asks whether “any state licensing or disciplinary board” has “taken any formal

disciplinary action against any registration or license held by you,” and Question 6, which asks whether “you committed a criminal act for which you pled guilty or nolo contendere, or for which you were convicted or received probation before judgment.”

2. Dr. Chou included a written explanation with her application, which indicated that she had disciplinary taken against her by the Texas Board of Pharmacy following an incident involving driving while intoxicated. A review of the Texas Board’s website revealed that Dr. Chou’s pharmacy license status was “restriction.”

3. Following a review of materials provided by the Texas Board, the Board determined it was appropriate to refer Dr. Chou to a Board-approved evaluator to determine her fitness to practice pharmacy in Maryland. Dr. Chou submitted to an evaluation on March 2, 2021. On or about March 25, 2021, the Board received a report from the evaluator, in which he stated she could safely and competently practice pharmacy in Maryland with ongoing monitoring and self-care.

4. In order to resolve any remaining concerns, the Board held a CRC with Dr. Chou on June 9, 2021. At the CRC, Dr. Chou noted that two separate arrests for driving under the influence, which she promptly disclosed to the Texas Board, led to the disciplinary actions taken against her license in Texas. Dr. Chou also stressed to the Board that she never faced allegations relating to her clinical practice of pharmacy.

5. At the CRC, Dr. Chou also discussed steps she was taking to ensure that she avoided any further legal trouble. She also informed the Board of major life changes (including getting married) that led to her move to Maryland.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes that Dr. Chou is subject to discipline pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 12-302(b) and 12-313(b)(21), (22), & (24).

ORDER

It is this 13 day of Jan., 2021²², by an affirmative vote of the Maryland Board of Pharmacy, hereby:

ORDERED that Dr. Chou's application for licensure as a pharmacist be **GRANTED**, provided that she is otherwise qualified for a license; and be it further,

ORDERED that, upon issuance, Dr. Chou's license shall be placed on **PROBATION** for a minimum period of **TWO (2) YEARS**, during which she shall:

1. Within five (5) business days, enter into a rehabilitation contract with Pharmacy Rehabilitation Services ("PRS");
2. Fully and timely cooperate and comply with all of PRS's referrals, rules, and requirements, including, but not limited to, the terms and conditions of the contract, and fully participate and comply with all therapy, treatment, evaluations, and screenings as directed by PRS;
3. Sign and update the written release/consent forms requested by the Board and PRS, including release/consent forms to authorize PRS to make verbal and written disclosures to the Board and to authorize the Board to disclose relevant information from PRS records and files in a public order, which she shall not withdraw during the probationary period; and
4. Sign any written release/consent forms to authorize PRS to exchange with (i.e., disclose to and receive from) outside entities (including all of the Respondent's current therapists and treatment providers) verbal and written information concerning the Respondent and to ensure that PRS is authorized to receive the medical records of the Respondent, including, but not limited to, mental health and drug or alcohol evaluation and treatment records, which she shall not withdraw during the probationary period; and be it further,

ORDERED that after two (2) years of probation, Dr. Chou may petition the Board to terminate probation, provided that she has been fully compliant with the terms of probation and does not have any pending complaints filed against her; and be it further,

ORDERED that Dr. Chou shall at all times cooperate with the Board, its agents, or its employees in the monitoring, supervision, and investigation of her compliance with the terms and conditions of this Consent Order; and be it further,


ORDERED that Dr. Chou's failure to fully cooperate with the Board shall be deemed a violation of the probationary terms and a violation of this Order; and be it further,

ORDERED that in the event the Board finds in good faith that Dr. Chou has violated any of the conditions of probation herein or any terms of her contract with PRS, or in the event the Board finds in good faith that Dr. Chou has committed a violation of Title 12 of the Health Occupations Article or regulations adopted thereunder, the Board may impose further disciplinary action against Dr. Chou's license, including suspension or revocation, provided that Dr. Chou is given notice and an opportunity for a hearing; and be it further,

ORDERED that Dr. Chou shall bear any and all expenses associated with this Order; and be it further,

ORDERED that this is a formal order of the Maryland Board of Pharmacy and as such is a public document pursuant to Maryland Code Ann., Gen. Provisions § 4-333(b).

1-13-22
Date


Deena Speights-Napata, M.A., Executive Director
for
Jennifer Hardesty, Pharm.D., President
Maryland Board of Pharmacy

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Handwritten signature

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CONSENT

1. By signing this Consent, I hereby affirm the findings of fact contained herein and agree to be bound by the foregoing Consent Order and its conditions.
2. By signing this Consent, I submit to the foregoing Consent Order as a resolution of this matter. By signing this Consent, I waive any rights I may have had to contest the findings and determinations contained in this Consent Order.
3. I acknowledge that this is a formal order of the Board and as such is a public document.
4. I acknowledge the legal authority and the jurisdiction of the Board to enter and enforce this Consent Order.
5. I sign this Consent Order freely and voluntarily, after having had the opportunity to consult with counsel. I fully understand the language, meaning, and effect of this Consent Order.

1/8/22
Date



Connie Chou, Applicant

STATE OF MARYLAND
COUNTY/CITY OF Frederick :

I hereby certify that on this 8 day of January, 2022, before me, a Notary Public of the State of Maryland and County/City aforesaid, personally appeared CONNIE CHOU, and made an oath in due form that the foregoing Consent was her voluntary act and deed.





Notary Public
My commission expires: 6/2/2022