



reprimand any trainee, licensee, or certificate holder, or suspend , rescind, **or** revoke the status of any trainee, a license of any licensee, or a certificate of any certificate holder if the applicant, trainee, licensee, or certificate holder:

(8) Violates the code of ethics adopted by the Board;

(13) Violates any rule or regulation adopted by the Board;

(16) Commits an act of immoral or unprofessional conduct in the practice of clinical or nonclinical counseling or therapy;

**COMAR 10.58.03. Code of Ethics.**

.04 Ethical Responsibility.

B. A counselor may not:

(3) Enter into relationships that could compromise a counselor's objectivity or create a conflict of interest

**COMAR 10.58.03.09. Sexual Misconduct**

C. Relationships with Former Clients

(1) Except as set forth in § C(3) of this regulation, a counselor may not engage in sexual behavior with a former client.

The Board offered the Respondent an opportunity to settle this matter rather than pursuing formal charges against the Respondent. As a result of that offer, the Respondent and the Board agreed to the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. On or about April; 11, 2003, the Respondent was issued an authorization letter to practice as an Alcohol and Drug Trainee in the State of Maryland with an initial expiration date of January 1, 2008, later extended to June 1, 2012. On

May 23, 2016, Respondent was issued a certificate to practice as a Certified Supervised Professional Counselor (CSC-AD).

2. On or about June 5, 2019, the Board received a complaint filed by Respondent's former client. The Client alleged that in 2004, while Respondent was her counselor at a treatment facility, he began pursuing a sexual relationship with her. The complaint also alleged that the relationship became serious in 2006, and they later got married.
3. On or about September 20, 2019, the Board received a second complaint, filed by Respondent's former supervisor. The complaint alleges that the Supervisor received a voicemail from a former client of the Respondent. In the voicemail, the former client alleged that Respondent engaged in a romantic relationship with her while he was her counselor.
4. The Board initiated an investigation into the matter. The investigative findings include the following:
  - a) The "client/ former-client" referenced in both complaints are one and the same.
  - b) From April 9, 2002 until June 2005, Respondent was employed as an addictions counselor at an inpatient rehabilitation facility.
  - c) Respondent was the Client's assigned counselor during Client's 28-day stay at the inpatient rehabilitation facility.
  - d) Respondent admitted that he engaged in a romantic relationship with the Client from 2006 through 2011.

e) At all material times, Respondent was authorized to practice alcohol and drug counseling in the State of Maryland.

5. Respondent has never been subject to any other disciplinary actions from the Board, and has not been the subject of any other complaints submitted to the Board.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the forgoing Findings of Fact, the Board finds as a matter of law that the Respondent's conduct, as described above, constitutes a violation of Health Occ. § 17-509 (8), (13), and (16), and COMAR 10.58.03.04(B) and COMAR 10.58.03.09(C).

### ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is hereby by a majority of the Board members considering the case:

**ORDERED** that the Respondent is hereby **REPRIMANDED**; and it is further

**ORDERED** that Respondent's license to practice as a CSC-AD shall be placed on **PROBATION** for a minimum period of **ONE (1) YEAR** from the date of this order, and continuing until the Respondent has successfully completed the following probationary conditions:

1. The Respondent's status as a CSC-AD shall be listed in the Board's database and on its website as being on "Probation";
2. That within **FOURTEEN (14) BUSINESS DAYS** of the effective date of this Consent Order, Respondent shall notify his employer(s) and on-site supervisor(s) of his probationary status and provide both with written copies of the Consent Order.

3. Respondent shall submit written proof of his employer(s) and supervisor(s)' receipt of the Consent Order and written proof of his employer(s)' and supervisor(s)' understanding of the terms and Conditions of the Consent Order within **FOURTEEN (14)** business days of the effective date of this Consent Order.
4. During the probationary period, the Respondent shall enroll in and successfully complete, within six (6) months of the effective date of this Consent Order, a Board-approved ethics course that covers the topics of dual relationships and conflicts of interest. Respondent shall submit written proof of his completion of this course to the Board. The Respondent shall not use any continuing education credits earned through the completion of this course to fulfill any continuing education requirements that are mandated for licensure renewal in this State;
5. The Respondent shall meet with his clinical supervisor **at least quarterly** for random chart reviews and discussion. At these meetings, the supervisor and Respondent shall discuss and review the ethical requirements and regulations of the Maryland Professional Counselors and Therapists Act (the "Act"), codified at Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. ("Health Occ.") §§ 17-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2017 Supp.), and the regulations adopted by the Board, at Md. Code Regs. ("COMAR") §§ 10.58.01 *et seq.*
6. The Supervisor shall submit **quarterly written reports** to the Board, which shall include but not be limited to the number and type of cases reviewed, issues discussed and their assessment of the Respondent's understanding of the conditions he is treating and his compliance with standards of care and ethical standards.

7. The Respondent is responsible for ensuring that the supervisor submits the required quarterly reports to the Board in a timely manner.
8. A negative report from the supervisor may result in a violation of this Consent Order and further sanctions at the Board's discretion. The Board in its discretion, may reduce the frequency of the written reports from the supervisor, upon a written request from the supervisor;
9. The Board has sole authority to implement any changes in the supervision requirements of this Consent Order and retains all authority to approve any requested changes in the supervision requirements of this Consent Order;
10. In the event that the supervisor discontinues supervising the Respondent for any reason, the Respondent shall immediately notify the Board and submit a replacement candidate to serve as his supervisor under the terms specified above;
11. The Respondent shall comply with the Maryland Professional Counselors Act and all laws, statutes and regulations pertaining thereof; and it is further

**ORDERED**, that if the Respondent's license expires or becomes inactive during the period of probation, the probation and any conditions will be tolled; and it is further

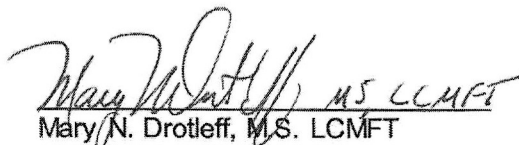
**ORDERED**, that at the conclusion of the period of probation, the Respondent may petition the Board for a termination of his probation. The Board may terminate the Respondent's probation depending on whether he has fulfilled all the terms and conditions of the Consent Order, and whether there are any pending complaints against him; and it is further

**ORDERED** that if the Respondent violates any terms and conditions of the Probation and/or this Consent Order, the Board, in its discretion, after notice and opportunity for an evidentiary hearing if there is a genuine dispute as to the underlying facts, or an opportunity for a show cause hearing before the Board otherwise, may impose any sanction that the Board may have imposed in this case, including additional probationary terms and conditions, a reprimand, suspension, revocation, and/or monetary penalty; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the Respondent shall be responsible for all costs incurred in fulfilling the terms and conditions of this Consent Order; and it is further

**ORDERED** that for the purposes of public disclosure, this Consent order is considered a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2014) and is reportable to any entity to whom the Board is obligated to report.<sup>1</sup>

12/16/2022



Mary N. Drotleff, M.S. LCMFT

Mary N. Drotleff, M.S. LCMFT  
Board Chair  
Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and  
Therapists

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<sup>1</sup> This includes the Board's public website and the National Practitioner's Database.

## CONSENT

I, ARCHIE BLOUNT, acknowledge that I have been made aware of my right to consult with counsel before signing this document.

By this Consent, I accept this Pre-Charge Consent Order of Reprimand ("Order") in lieu of a formal evidentiary hearing on violations of the Act and COMAR contained in this Order.

I acknowledge the validity of this Order as if entered into after the conclusion of a formal evidentiary hearing in which I would have had 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 as provided by law.

I waive any rights I may have had to contest the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

I acknowledge the legal authority and jurisdiction of the Board to initiate these proceedings and to issue and enforce this Order.

I affirm that I waive my right to appeal any adverse ruling of the Board that might have followed any such hearing.



I sign this Order after having had opportunity to consult with counsel, without reservation, and I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning and terms of this Order.

I voluntarily sign this Order and I understand its meaning and effect.

11-25-22  
Date

Archie Blount  
Archie Blount

NOTARY

STATE/DISTRICT OF: Maryland

CITY/COUNTY OF: City of Baltimore

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2022,  
before me, a Notary public of the State/District and City/County aforesaid, personally  
appeared **ARCHIE BLOUNT**, and declared and affirmed under the penalties of  
perjury that signing the foregoing **PRE-CHARGE CONSENT ORDER OF  
REPRIMAND** was his voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS, my hand and Notarial Seal.

Notary Public: Vickie Ann Burks

VICKIE ANN BURKS  
NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF MARYLAND  
My Commission Expires October 23, 2023

My Commission Expires: Oct 23, 2023

