

Robert Zellner
ADT Trainee Status Number ADT2409

Mary N. Drotleff, M.S. LCMFT
Board Chair
Maryland State Board of
Professional Counselors and Therapists
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215

Re: Surrender of Trainee Status to Practice as an Alcohol and Drug Trainee
ADT Number: ADT2409
Case Number: 2020-080

Dear Ms. Drotleff and Members of the Board:

Please be advised that, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 17-508 (2021 Repl. Vol. & 2022 Supp.) I have decided to **SURRENDER** my trainee status to practice as an Alcohol and Drug Trainee, in the State of Maryland, Trainee Number ADT2409, effective immediately. I understand that upon the surrender of my trainee status, I may not provide alcohol and drug counseling, with or without compensation, and cannot otherwise engage in the practice of alcohol and drug counseling in Maryland as it is defined in the Maryland Professional Counselors and Therapists Act (the "Act"), Health Occ. §§ 17-101 *et seq.* and other applicable laws. In other words, as of the effective date of this Letter of Surrender, I understand that the surrender of my trainee status means that I am in the same position as an unlicensed and non-certified individual in the State of Maryland.

I understand that this Letter of Surrender is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT**, and upon acceptance by the Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the "Board"), becomes a **FINAL ORDER** of the Board.

I acknowledge that the Board initiated an investigation into my practice, and, on February 17, 2023, the Board issued a *Notice of Intent to Revoke Trainee Status* (the "Notice") against me under Health Occ. § 17-509(8) (Violates the code of ethics adopted by the Board), (9) (Knowingly violates any provision of this title), (13) (Violates any rule or regulation adopted by the Board), and Md. Code Regs. 10.58.03.04(A)(13) (A counselor shall cooperate with investigations, proceedings, and other requirements of the Board). Specifically, the Board found that I failed to comply with the terms of probation I agreed to in a Consent Order issued by the Board on April 16, 2021. I failed to ensure that the Board received the required supervision reports including quarterly supervision reports and biannual evaluations from a Board-approved supervisor.

I wish to make it clear that I have voluntarily, knowingly, and freely chosen to submit this Letter of Surrender to avoid any further investigation and prosecution of the allegations set forth in the Notice. I agree that if the Board were to proceed with an evidentiary hearing in this matter, the State would be able to prove the foregoing violations of the Act by a preponderance of the evidence. I acknowledge that for the purposes related to my trainee status, the allegations,

including the Allegations of Fact in the Notice shall be treated as if proven and that these allegations support a conclusion that I violated the Act as detailed herein.

I understand that by executing this Letter of Surrender I am waiving my right to a hearing to contest the disciplinary charges. In waiving my right to contest the charges, I am also waiving the right to be represented by counsel at the hearing, 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 to circuit court.

I understand that the Board will release this Letter of Surrender to any appropriate database regulating alcohol and drug trainees. I also understand in the event I would apply for licensure in any form in any other state or jurisdiction that this Letter of Surrender 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., Gen. Prov. § 4-101 *et seq.* (2014), and that this Letter of Surrender constitutes disciplinary action by the Board.

I further recognize and agree that by submitting this Letter of Surrender, my trainee status will remain surrendered unless and until the Board grants reinstatement. In the event that I apply for reinstatement of my Maryland trainee status, I understand that the Board is not required to grant reinstatement; and, if it does grant reinstatement, may impose any terms and conditions the Board considers appropriate for public safety and the protection of the integrity and reputation of the profession. I further understand that if I file a petition for reinstatement, I will approach the Board in the same position as an individual whose trainee status has been revoked.

I hereby affirm that I have terminated any employment as an alcohol and drug trainee in the State of Maryland.

I agree that on or before the effective date of this Letter of Surrender, I shall present to the Board my original Maryland certificate (Trainee Number ADT2409), including any wall certificates, renewal certificates, and/or any wallet-sized renewal cards.

I acknowledge that I may not rescind this Letter of Surrender in part or in its entirety for any reason whatsoever. Finally, I wish to make clear that I have been advised of my right to be represented by an attorney of my choice throughout proceedings before the Board, including the right to consult with an attorney prior to signing this Letter of Surrender. 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 make this decision knowingly and voluntarily.

Letter of Surrender
Robert Zellner
Trainee Status Number AD12409
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Sincerely,

5/11/23

Date


Robert Zellner

NOTARY


STATE OF Maryland

CITY/COUNTY OF Washington

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 11th day of May, 2023 before me, a Notary Public of the City/County aforesaid, personally appeared Robert Zellner, and declared and affirmed under the penalties of perjury that the signing of this Letter of Surrender was their voluntary act and deed.

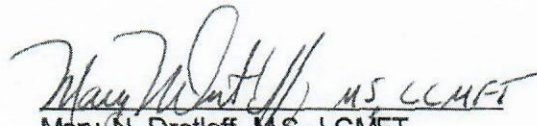
AS WITNESS my hand and Notarial seal.

DEREK A DURST
Notary Public
Washington County
Maryland
My Commission Expires Mar. 24, 2025


Notary Public
My commission expires: 3/24/25

ACCEPTANCE

On behalf of the Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists, on this
19th day of May, 2023, I hereby accept the **PUBLIC SURRENDER** of
Robert Zellner's trainee status to practice in the State of Maryland as an Alcohol and Drug Trainee.


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