

IN THE MATTER OF * **BEFORE THE MARYLAND STATE**
SAMANTHA BEAMON-SCOTT * **BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL**
LGPC Applicant * **COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS**
* **Case Number: 2023-055**

* * * * *
CONSENT ORDER

On or about February 17, 2023, the Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the “Board”) notified SAMANTHA BEAMON-SCOTT (the “Applicant”) of the Board’s intent to deny her application to practice as a Licensed Graduate Professional Counselor (“LGPC”) pursuant to the Maryland Professional Counselors and Therapists Act (the “Act”), codified at Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 17-101 *et seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol. and 2022 Supp.).

Specifically, the Board bases its action on the following:

Health Occ. § 17-509. Denial, probation, suspension or revocation of trainee status, license, or certificate.

Subject to the hearing provisions of § 17-511 of this subtitle, the Board, on the affirmative vote of a majority of its members then serving, may deny trainee status, a license, or a certificate to any applicant, place any trainee, licensee, or certificate holder on probation, 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:

- (9) Knowingly violates any provision of this title, *to wit*:
 - § 17-309 Licensed graduate practice; regulations
 - (b) To qualify to practice as a licensed graduate alcohol and drug counselor, a licensed graduate marriage and family therapist, a licensed graduate professional counselor, or a licensed graduate professional art therapist, an individual shall be:

- (1) Of good moral character;
- (10) Is convicted of or pleads guilty or nolo contendere to a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude, whether or not any appeal or other proceeding is pending to have the conviction or plea set aside[.]

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board makes the following findings of fact:

1. On or about September 21, 2022, the Board received the Applicant's Licensed Graduate Professional Counselor Application (the "LGPC Application").
2. In her LGPC Application, the Applicant answered "yes" to question 2, which asked: "Have you pled guilty, *nolo contendere*, or been convicted of, received probation before judgment or had a conviction set aside for any criminal act (excluding traffic violations)?"
3. The LGPC Application instructed the Applicant to "attach a separate page with a complete explanation of each occurrence (include date, time, location, disposition, etc.) and a certified copy of the disciplinary/court document from the issuing agency, if applicable."
4. The Applicant provided copies of court documents that contained the following information:
 - a. Case CR89F00265 – On November 21, 1989, in the Circuit Court of the City of Suffolk, Virginia, the Applicant was found guilty of **Use of a Firearm in the Commission of A Felony (Abduction)**, a felony. The Applicant was sentenced to 2 years of confinement in jail and fined \$175.99.

- b. Case CR89F00266 - On November 21, 1989, in the Circuit Court of the City of Suffolk, Virginia, the Applicant was found guilty of **Abduction**, a felony. The Applicant was sentenced to 10 years of confinement in jail and fined \$212.39. The court suspended the entirety of the jail sentence and upon release, placed the Applicant on probation for 20 years.
 - c. Case CR89F00267 – On November 21, 1989, in the Circuit Court of the City of Suffolk, Virginia, the Applicant was found guilty of **Armed Robbery**, a felony. The Applicant was sentenced to 20 years of confinement in jail and fined \$175.99. The court suspended 12 years and upon release, placed the Applicant on probation for 20 years.
 - d. Case CR89F00268 – On November 21, 1989, in the Circuit Court of the City of Suffolk, Virginia, the Applicant was found guilty of the **Use of A Firearm In the Commission of a Felony (Robbery)**, a felony. The Applicant was sentenced to 4 years of confinement in jail and fined \$175.99.
5. By letter dated December 2, 2022, the Applicant provided a letter of explanation in which she disclosed the following:

...

The offenses were committed when in the company of another person whom, without my knowledge, decided to hold up an adult driver after offering a ride. The other convicted party . . . offered me a ride from

the grocery store and after I entered the vehicle in the front seat with the driver and as we proceeded to another location a gun was produced. The offender then directed the driver to the bank where funds were withdrawn prior to going to a wooded area and leaving the vehicle with the adult victim for a short time to return without the victim.

. . . I was found guilty of several charges including Armed Robbery, Abduction, Use of a Firearm (Robbery), and Use of a Firearm (Abduction). I was given a 36-year sentence with 22 suspended and served . . . a 14-year sentence. I was paroled in 1992 and successfully completed the parole/probation process . . .

. . . I am disclosing to ensure that I am not putting anyone at risk of harm because of the unfortunate events of the past. I have upheld my innocence in this matter; although I was tried, convicted, and sentenced on the aforementioned charges I have displayed over the past 30 years that criminal activity is not a habit that is likely[.]

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

On June 16, 2023, and October 20, 2023, the Applicant represented by counsel, the Administrative Prosecutor, and representatives of the Board attended Case Resolution Conferences (“CRC”). As a result of the information presented at the CRCs, the parties agreed to resolve the matter by consent, consisting of Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order.

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes as a matter of law that the Applicant’s conduct as described above constitutes violations of the Act.

Specifically:

Health Occ. § 17-509. Denial, probation, suspension or revocation of trainee status, license, or certificate.

Subject to the hearing provisions of § 17-511 of this subtitle, the Board, on the affirmative vote of a majority of its members then serving, may deny trainee status, a license, or a certificate to any applicant, place any trainee, licensee, or certificate holder on probation, 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:

(9) Knowingly violates any provision of this title, *to wit*:

§ 17-309 Licensed graduate practice; regulations

(b) To qualify to practice as a licensed graduate alcohol and drug counselor, a licensed graduate marriage and family therapist, a licensed graduate professional counselor, or a licensed graduate professional art therapist, an individual shall be:

(1) Of good moral character;

(10) Is convicted of or pleads guilty or nolo contendere to a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude, whether or not any appeal or other proceeding is pending to have the conviction or plea set aside[.]

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 15th day of December, 2023 by a majority of the quorum of the Board considering this case hereby:

ORDERED that the Applicant's application to practice as a Licensed Graduate Professional Counselor ("LGPC") is hereby **GRANTED**; and it is further

ORDERED that the Applicant is placed on **PROBATION** for the **ENTIRETY** of her LGPC licensure; and it is further

ORDERED that during the probationary period:

1. The Applicant shall obtain a **Board Approved Supervisor**;
2. The Applicant shall provide written copies of the Consent Order to her Board Approved Supervisor and to her employer and provide documentation of their receipt.

3. The Applicant shall meet with the Board-approved Supervisor for a minimum of **one session per month**, for a minimum of **one hour per session**. The Supervision Session should specifically focus on the ethical treatment and moral considerations associated with the Code of Ethics. The Supervisory Sessions should also cover the specific professional, ethical, and moral considerations presented by the Applicant's past criminal history in regard to the treatment of trauma victims;
4. The Supervisor shall submit **quarterly written reports** to the Board for the entire duration of the probation period detailing the supervision provided and evaluating the Applicant's practice;
5. The Applicant shall have sole responsibility for ensuring that the Supervisor submits the required reports to the Board in a timely manner;
6. A negative report from the Supervisor or any failure to comply with the Supervisor's recommendations shall be deemed a violation of probation or of this Consent Order;
7. In the event that the Applicant's **Board Approved Supervisor** discontinues supervising the Applicant's practice for any reason during the probationary period, the Applicant shall notify the Board within five (5) days of the change. The Applicant shall be solely responsible for submitting a request for a Board-approved

replacement. Once a replacement is found, the Applicant shall ~~shall~~ provide the Board with the new Board Approved Supervisor's contact information, and will provide written documentation of the new Supervisor's receipt of the consent order;

8. In the event that the Applicant's **employment** discontinues for any reason during the probationary period, the Applicant shall notify the Board within five (5) days of the change. Upon obtaining new employment, the Applicant shall provide the Board with the new employer's contact information and will provide written documentation of any new employer's receipt of the Consent Order;
9. The Applicant shall, at all times, comply with the Act and all applicable laws, statutes and regulations;
10. The Applicant shall at all times cooperate with the Board, any of its agents or employees, and with the Board-assigned investigator, in the monitoring, supervision, and investigation of the Applicant's compliance with the terms and conditions of the Consent Order;
11. If the Board determines that the terms or conditions of this Order have not been successfully completed, the Board may modify the terms and conditions of Applicant's probation, upon notice to the Applicant;
12. If the Applicant allegedly fails to comply with any term or condition of the Consent Order, the Applicant shall be given notice and an opportunity for a hearing. If, in its sole discretion, the Board

determines that there is a genuine dispute as to a material fact, the hearing shall be an evidentiary hearing before the Board. If there is no genuine dispute as to a material fact, the Applicant shall be given a show cause hearing before the Board;

13. After the appropriate hearing, if the Board determines that the Applicant has failed to comply with any term or condition of the Consent Order, the Board may reprimand the Applicant, place the Applicant on probation with appropriate terms and conditions, or suspend or revoke the Applicant's license to practice as a graduate professional counselor in Maryland. The Board may, in addition to one or more of the sanctions set forth above, impose a civil monetary fine upon the Applicant; and it is further


ORDERED that the Applicant shall be responsible for all costs incurred under the terms and conditions of the Consent Order; and it is further

ORDERED that the effective date of this Order is the date that it is signed by the Board; and it is further

ORDERED that the Consent Order is a Final Order and as such is a **PUBLIC RECORD** pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2014).

12/15/2023

Date



Winnie D. Moore, LCPC
Board Chair
Maryland State Board of Professional
Counselors and Therapists

CONSENT

I, Samantha Beamon-Scott, by affixing my signature hereto, acknowledge that:

1. I am represented by counsel, Elizabeth Smith, Esquire, and I have consulted with counsel in this matter. I have knowingly and voluntarily agreed to enter into this Consent Order. By this Consent and for the purpose of resolving the issues raised by the Board, I agree and accept to be bound by the foregoing Consent Order and its conditions.
2. I have knowingly and voluntarily agreed to enter into this Consent Order. By this Consent and for the purpose of resolving the issues raised by the Board, I agree and accept to be bound by the foregoing Consent Order and its conditions.
3. I am aware that I am entitled to a formal evidentiary hearing, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 17-511 (2021 Repl. Vol. and 2022 Supp.) and Md. Code Ann., State Gov't §§ 10-201 *et seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol. and 2022 Supp.).
4. I acknowledge the validity and enforceability of this Consent Order as if entered into after the conclusion of a formal evidentiary hearing in which I would have 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 am waiving those procedural and substantive protections.
5. I voluntarily enter into and agree to abide by the terms and conditions set forth herein as a resolution of the Notice of Intent to Revoke Licensure against me. I waive any right to contest the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and I waive my right to a full evidentiary hearing, as set forth above, and any right to appeal this Consent Order or any adverse ruling of the Board that might have followed any such hearing.
6. I acknowledge that by failing to abide by the conditions set forth in this Consent Order, I may be subject to further disciplinary actions.
7. I sign this Consent Order voluntarily, without reservation, and I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning and terms of this Consent Order.

1st December 2023
Date


Samantha Beamon-Scott, LGPC Applicant

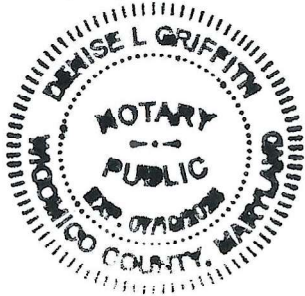
NOTARY

STATE OF Maryland

CITY/COUNTY OF Wicomico

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 1st day of December, 2023, before me, a Notary Public of the State and City/County aforesaid, personally appeared Samantha Beamon-Scott, LGPC Applicant, and gave oath in due form of law that the foregoing Consent Order was her voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS, my hand and Notary Seal.



Denise L. Griffith
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 7-19-25