

Letter of Surrender  
Gary O. Gallon, LCSW-C  
License No. 27983, Case No. 2021-3070

**GARY O. GALLON, LCSW-C**

Date: March 30, 2023

Sondra Petty, LCSW-C, LICSW  
Board Chair  
State Board of Social Work Examiners  
4201 Patterson Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215

Received  
APR 04 2023  
Maryland Board of  
Social Work Examiners

Re: Surrender of Social Work License  
License Number: 27983  
Case Numbers: 2021-3070

Dear Ms. Petty and Members of the Board:

Please be advised that I have decided to **SURRENDER** my license to practice social work in the State of Maryland, License Number: 27983 effective immediately. I understand that upon surrender of my license, I may not practice social work, with or without compensation, or otherwise engage in the practice of social work in the State of Maryland as it is defined in the Maryland Social Workers Act (the "Act"), MD. Code Ann., Health Occupations ("Health Occ.") §§ 19-101 *et seq.*, (2021 Repl. Vol.) and other applicable laws. In other words, as of the effective date of this Letter of Surrender, I understand that I am in the same position as an unlicensed individual in the State of Maryland.

I understand that this Letter of Surrender is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT**, and, on the Board's acceptance, becomes a **FINAL ORDER** of the Board.

My decision to surrender my license to practice social work in the State of Maryland has been prompted by an investigation of my license by the Maryland State Board of Social Work Examiners (the "Board").

I acknowledge that the Board's investigation was based upon the receipt of a Reciprocal Disciplinary Action by the State of Tennessee's Social Work Board, as well as my failure to disclose the aforementioned Disciplinary Action to the Board on my Maryland application for licensure. The Board's investigation revealed the following:

1. That on April 3, 2015, I was licensed as an LCSW by the Tennessee Board of Social Work Examiners ("the Tennessee Board").
2. That while licensed and residing in Tennessee, I was employed as an LCSW for the Department of Veteran's Affairs in Cookeville and Crossville, Tennessee, assigned to the

Supporting Housing (VASH) Program.

3. That on February 23, 2018, I was assigned as a case manager for a homeless female veteran ("Client X").<sup>1</sup>
  - a. That approximately a month after Client X entered the program, I engaged in an inappropriate, persona relationship with her.
  - b. That the Tennessee Board found, after concluding its own investigation and hearing, that my relationship with Client X included engaging in inappropriate sexual activities and email conversations that were sexual in nature through my government assigned email.
  - c. That from December 2018 to January 2020 I also violated the boundaries of the therapist/client relationship by engaging in financial transactions with Client X, including but not limited to making utility payments on behalf of Client X, as well as paying for lunches, dinners, and items for Client X's daughter.
  - d. That on September 19, 2019, Client X's daughter was signed out from school for an "appointment" at around 12:30 PM. I returned Client X's daughter to school at 1:15 PM the same day.
  - e. That in June of 2020, the VA management received a complaint regarding my relationship with Client X. During the course of the investigation, I admitted that my relationship with Client X was not appropriate or permissible within the scope of my practice. I also acknowledged that my behavior failed to adhere to the VA's core values, and caused pain and hurt to Client X, as well as to my spouse. Additionally, I am remorseful for my selfish actions and take full responsibility for any harm that resulted from my behavior.
  - f. On November 27, 2020, I was terminated from the Department of Veteran's Affairs for conduct unbecoming.
  - g. That on October 25, 2021, I was formally notified of the complaint against my license and the State's evidence of misconduct. The letter included an offer to settle the matter by consent order.
  - h. That on November 4, 2021, the Tennessee Board enacted a Consent Order, with my signed consent, that temporarily suspended my license to practice social work

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<sup>1</sup> To ensure confidentiality, the names of individuals, hospitals, and healthcare facilities involved in this case are not disclosed in this document.

in the state of Tennessee, and placed my license under probation for a minimum period of three years, and fined me one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) as a result of my violation of professional boundaries with a client.

4. That On August 9, 2021, I submitted an application for an LCSW-C license to the Maryland Board. I responded "NO" to the following Question:

Has any State Licensing or Disciplinary Board, or a comparable body in the Armed Services denied your application for licensure, reinstatement, or taken any action against your license, including but not limited to suspension, or revocation.

5. That on January 20, 2022, I submitted a written request to the Board to surrender my license.

I recognize that if the Board were to proceed with charges and an evidentiary hearing in this matter, the State would be able to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that I violated certain provisions of the Act, including Health Occ. §19-311 (1) (obtained or attempted to obtain a license through fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation); (4) (Commits any act of gross negligence, incompetence, or misconduct in the practice of social work); (5) (Engages in a course of conduct that is inconsistent with generally accepted professional standards in the practice of social work) (9) (is disciplined by the licensing or disciplinary authority of any state, country, or branch of the armed services, or the Veterans' Administration for an act that would be grounds for disciplinary action under this section), as well as COMAR 10.42.03.03B(3) (exploitation of a relationship with a client for personal advantage or satisfaction); COMAR 10.42.03.05(D)(the licensee may not engage in sexual misconduct with either current or former clients) and (F) (the licensee may not engage in sexual misconduct with a client, supervisee, student, trainee or colleague over whom the licensee exercises professional authority). I recognize that for all purposes relevant to licensure that these allegations of fact set forth above will be treated as proven and that these allegations support a conclusion that I violated the Act as detailed herein.

I have voluntarily, knowingly, and freely chosen to submit this Letter of Surrender. I understand that, by the execution of this Letter of Surrender, I am waiving the right to contest the allegations in a formal evidentiary hearing at 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 provided by law, including the right to appeal.

I acknowledge that upon my execution of this Letter of Surrender, I shall surrender to the Board my Maryland social work license, License Number 27983, including any wall certificate, renewal certificates, and wallet-sized renewal cards in my possession.

I understand that the Board will advise the Association of State Boards of Social Work, the National Practitioner Data Bank of this Letter of Surrender, any other required entities of

this Letter of Surrender, and in response to any inquiry, that I have surrendered my license in lieu of disciplinary action under the Act as resolution of the matters pending against me. I also understand that in the event I would apply for licensure in any form in any other state or jurisdiction, that 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.* (2014). Finally, I understand that this Letter of Surrender is considered a disciplinary action by the Board.

I recognize and agree that by submitting this Letter of Surrender, my license will remain surrendered unless and until the Board grants reinstatement of my license. I understand that if I apply for reinstatement of my Maryland license, the Board or its successor has absolute discretion to grant or deny my application for reinstatement. If the Board denies my application, I do not have the right to a hearing or for a judicial review of the Board's decision. If the Board does grant reinstatement, it 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 approach the Board or its successor in the same position as an individual whose license has been revoked. I also understand that if I apply for reinstatement, I bear the burden of demonstrating my professional competence and fitness to practice social work to the satisfaction of the Board.

I acknowledge that I may not rescind this Letter of Surrender in part or in its entirety for any reason whatsoever. 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, terms, and effect of this Letter of Surrender. I make this decision knowingly, voluntarily, and without duress.

Sincerely,

March 30, 2023  
Date

Gary O. Gallon  
Gary O. Gallon

Letter of Surrender  
Gary O. Gallon, LCSW-C  
License No. 27983, Case No. 2021-3070

**NOTARY PUBLIC**

STATE/DISTRICT OF TN

CITY/COUNTY OF Williamson

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 30 day of March, 2023,  
before me, a Notary Public of the State/District and City/County aforesaid, personally appeared  
**Gary O. Gallon**, and declared and affirmed under penalties of perjury that signing the foregoing  
Letter of Surrender was his voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS my hand and Notarial Seal.

Timothy P. Glasgow Jr.  
Notary Public



My Commission expires: 10-05-2026

**ACCEPTANCE**

On this 4th day of April, 2023, I, Sondra Petty, Board Chair,  
on behalf of the Maryland State Board of Social Work Examiners, hereby accept **Gary O.  
Gallon's PUBLIC SURRENDER** of his license to practice social work in the State of Maryland  
pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health occ. § 18-310 (2021 Repl. Vol.).

Sondra G. Petty, LCSW-C, C/CSW

04/04/2023

Date

Sondra G. Petty, LCSW-C  
Board Chair  
Maryland State Board of  
Social Work Examiners