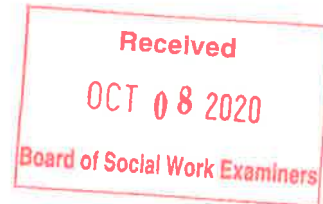


AMY LYNN SALES, LCSW-C

Date: 8/21/20



Gerard Farrell, Board Chair
State Board of Social Work Examiners
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

RE: Surrender of Social Work License
License Number: 08508
Case Numbers: 2020-2816, 2020-2817, & 2020-2818

Dear Mr. Farrell 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: 08508, 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.*, (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2019 Supp.) 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 pre-charge 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 have decided to surrender my license to practice social work in the State of Maryland to avoid prosecution of disciplinary charges the Board would issue against me under Title 19 of the Health Occupations Article (the "Act"), specifically:

§ 19-311:

(4) Commits any act of gross negligence, incompetence, or misconduct in the practice of social work;

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- (5) Engages in a course of conduct that is inconsistent with generally accepted professional standards in the practice of social work;
- (6) Violates any provision of this title or regulations governing the practice of social work adopted and published by the Board[.]

The Board also charged me with violating the following provisions of COMAR 10.42.03:

.03 Responsibilities to Clients.

- B. The licensee may not
 - (1) Participate or condone dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation;
 - (3) Exploit a relationship with a client for personal advantage or satisfaction;
 - (4) Engage in solicitation which amounts to fraud, intimidation, or undue influence;

.06. Standards of Practice.

- B. A licensee may not:
 - (1) Undertake or continue a professional relationship with a client when the competence or objectivity of the licensee is or could reasonably be expected to be impaired due to:
 - (a) Mental, emotional, physiological, pharmacological, substance abuse, or personal problems; or
 - (2) Engage in other relationships that could limit the licensee's objectivity or create a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest.

I wish to make clear that I have voluntarily, knowingly, and freely chosen to submit this Letter of Surrender to avoid being charged and prosecuted of the aforementioned provisions of the Act. I acknowledge that for all purposes relevant to social work licensure, the Board's investigative findings will be treated as if proven. I acknowledge that if the case were to proceed to an evidentiary hearing, the State would be able to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that I violated these provisions of the Act.

I further acknowledge that the State could prove that I was self-employed and practiced independently providing psychotherapy services to clients from my residence as well as an office space located inside a Maryland therapeutic treatment center ("Facility A"). I received wages through client co-pays and billed insurance companies under Facility A's credentials for services rendered to my clients. Using knowledge and information that I obtained as a result of clinical therapy sessions I had with my clients, I

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asked two different clients to provide me with narcotic pain medication oxycontin, oxycodone. I also asked a psychiatric nurse that works in Facility A, to write me a prescription for oxycontin and she refused. I billed therapeutic services provided to couples as if services were provided to them as two separate, individual clients, rather than at the rate of reimbursement for family therapy. In addition I charged a double co-pay, given I was seeing two people versus one.

I understand that by executing this Letter of Surrender I am waiving any right to contest the Board's investigative findings in a formal evidentiary hearing at which I would have had the right to counsel, 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.

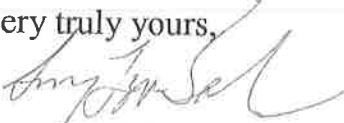
I understand that the Board will advise the National Practitioners' Data Bank of this Letter of Surrender, and in any response to any inquiry, that I have surrendered my license in lieu of further disciplinary action under the Act. I also understand that in the event I would apply for license in any form in any other state or jurisdiction, that this Letter of Surrender and the underlying investigative 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., State Govt., § 10-611 *et seq.*, (2014 Repl. Vol & 2019 Supp.), and that this Letter of Surrender is considered a disciplinary action by the Board.

I affirm that on or before the date of Board's acceptance of this Letter of Surrender, I will provide to Board staff my social work licenses. As a condition of petitioning for reinstatement of my Maryland License, I will submit to an evaluation by a Board-assigned evaluator at my expense. I will also need to provide documentation that I have satisfied all my continuing education requirements for all subsequent renewal periods that I am not licensed by the Board. If I apply for reinstatement of my Maryland License, the Board has full discretion to grant or deny my reinstatement. If the Board denies my application, I do not have the right to a hearing or to appeal 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 understand that when applying for reinstatement, I will approach the Board in the same posture as one 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. Finally, I wish to make clear that I have been advised

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of my right to be represented by the attorney of my choice throughout proceedings before the Board, including the right to counsel 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 voluntarily choose to surrender my Maryland license to practice social work pursuant to the terms and conditions set out herein. I make this decision knowingly and voluntarily.

Very truly yours,

Amy Lynn Sales, LCSW-C


NOTARY

STATE OF MARYLAND
CITY/COUNTY OF Carroll

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 21 day of Aug 2020, before me, a Notary Public of the State and City/County aforesaid, personally appeared

AMY LYNN SALES, LCSW-C and declared and affirmed under the penalties of perjury that signing the foregoing Letter of Surrender was her voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS my hand and Notarial seal.



Notary Public

My Commission expires: 8/4/2020

Jin Woo Yang
Notary Public
Howard County, Maryland
My Commission Expires Aug. 4 2020

See Attachment
Commission
extended

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ACCEPTANCE

On this 9th day of October, 2020, I,

Gerard Farrell, Board Chair, on behalf of the Maryland State Board of Social Work Examiners, accept the **SURRENDER** of the license of **AMY LYNN SALES, LCSW-C** to practice social work in the State of Maryland.



Gerard Farrell, Board Chair
Maryland State Board of Social Work Examiners