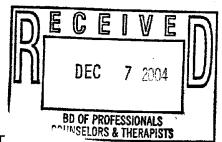
# FRED BRUNER LETTER OF SURRENDER

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Fredrick Bruner, Ph.D., LCMFT 10519 Calvin Lane Berlin, MD 21811

December 30, 2004

Joann Faber, M.E.D., C.A.S., L.C.P.C., Chair Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists 4201 Patterson Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Re:

Surrender of Marriage and Family

Therapy License

License Number: LCM011 Case Number: 2003-03

Dear Ms. Faber and Members of the Board:

Please be advised that I have decided to surrender my license to practice Marriage and Family Therapy in the State of Maryland, License Number LCM011. I understand that I may not give marriage and family therapy advice or treatment to any individual, with or without supervision and/or compensation, or otherwise engage in the practice of marriage and family therapy, as it is defined in the Professional Counselors and Therapists Act (the "Act"), Md. Health Occ. ("H.O.") Code Ann. § 17-101, et seq, (2000 Repl. Vol.). In other words, as of \_, the effective date of this Letter of Surrender, I understand that the surrender of my license means that I am in the same position as an unlicensed individual.

I understand that this Letter of Surrender is a PUBLIC document.

My decision to surrender my license to practice marriage and family therapy in Maryland has been prompted by an investigation of my licensure by the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the "Board").

The Board's investigation resulted in charges under the Act. Specifically, the Board charged me with the commission of prohibited acts under H.O. § of § 17-313:

Subject to the hearing provisions of §17-314 of this subtitle, the Board, on the affirmative vote of a majority of its members then serving, may deny a certificate to



#### STATE OF MARYLAND

# DHMH

# Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor - Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor - S. Anthony McCann, Secretary

December 30, 2004

Frederick Bruner, Ph.D. 10519 Calvin Lane Berlin, MD 21811

Re: Surrender of Marriage and Family Therapy License License Number LCM011

Dear Dr. Bruner:

Enclosed is a fully executed Final Order in the above referenced matter.

Yours truly,

Aileen Taylor

Executive Director

Cc: Noreen Rubin, Board Counsel
Roberta Gill, Assistant Attorney General
Administrative Prosecutor
Timothy Paulus, Deputy Counsel
Sheryl McDonald, Legal Secretary

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any applicant, reprimand any certificate holder, or suspend or revoke a certificate of any certificate holder if the applicant or certificate holder:

- (4) Violates the code of ethics adopted by the Board;
- (7) Is professionally, physically, or mentally incompetent;
- (9) Violates any rule or regulation adopted by the Board [;].

The Board further charges the Respondent with violating the following regulations,

Code of Ethics Code Md. Regs. tit. 10, § 10.58.03 (October 1, 2001):

#### .03 Professional Competence.

- A. A counselor shall:
  - (1) Practice only within the boundaries of a counselor's competence, based on education, training, supervised experience, and professional credentials;
  - (2) When developing competence in a new service or technique, or both, engage in ongoing consultation with other counselors or relevant professionals and acquire appropriate additional education or training, or both, in the new area[; and].

# .05 The Counseling Relationship.

- A. Client Welfare and Rights.
  - (1) A counselor shall:
    - (a) Inform clients of the purposes, goals, techniques, procedures, limitations, potential risks, and benefits of services to be performed;
    - (b) Explain to clients the implications of diagnosis, the intended use of tests and reports, fees, and billing arrangements;

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- (c) Document attempts to inform other professional persons concurrently providing mental health services to a client;
- (d) Assist clients in making appropriate arrangements for the continuation of treatment due to interruptions including but not limited to vacations and extended illness; and
- (e) Make appropriate referrals.

#### (2) A counselor may not:

- (a) Place or participate in placing clients in positions that may result in damaging the interests and the welfare of clients, employees, employers, or the public;
- (d) Foster dependent counseling relationships.

### B. Dual Relationships.

- (1) A counselor shall:
  - (a) Avoid dual relationships with clients; and
  - (b) Take appropriate measures, including but not limited to, informed consent, consultation, supervision, and documentation to ensure that judgment is not impaired and no exploitation occurs if a dual relationship cannot be avoided.

# (2) A counselor may not:

- (a) Exploit trust and dependency in relationships with supervisees, employees, research participants, students, or volunteers; or
- (b) Accept as clients superiors or subordinates with whom a counselor has administrative, supervisory, or evaluative relationships.

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I affirm that I was served with a copy of the charging document and have otherwise been advised on the Board's actions through communications with representatives of the Office of the Attorney General.

I have decided to surrender my license to practice marriage and family therapy in Maryland to avoid further prosecution of the aforementioned charges. The basis for the charges against me include the findings of the investigation regarding inappropriate dual relations, and by virtue of this Letter of Surrender, I waive any right to contest those charges and findings. I wish to make it clear that I have voluntarily, knowingly and freely chosen to submit this Letter of Surrender. I understand that by executing this Letter of Surrender, I am waiving any right to contest these 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 to all other substantive and procedural protections provided by law, including the right to appeal.

I hereby affirm that I have permanently terminated any practice that I had in Maryland.

I acknowledge that on or before the effective date of this Letter of Surrender, I shall present to the Board my Maryland marriage and family therapy license number LCM011, including any renewal certificates and wallet-sized renewal cards.

I further recognize and agree that by agreeing to this Letter of Surrender that my license will remain surrendered until such time as I apply for reinstatement and comply with the terms and conditions set forth in the attached letter from Board counsel, Noreen Rubin, dated October 20, 2004, attached hereto and made a part hereof. In the event that I apply for reinstatement of my Maryland license or for the issuance of a new Maryland marriage and family therapy license, I understand that the Board may set terms and conditions that shall apply to my receiving a reinstated license or a new Maryland license. I also understand that if I apply for reinstatement or for a new Maryland marriage and family therapy license that I bear the burden of demonstrating to the Board that I am competent to practice marriage and family therapy and possess good moral character, as specified in Md. Health Occ. Code Ann. § 17-302.1. I understand that if I determine that if I would like once again to practice marriage and family therapy in Maryland, I will approach the Board in the same posture as one whose license has been revoked on the above charges.

I understand that if I petition the Board for reinstatement of my license, the Board will review my case and determine my fitness to have my license reinstated. I understand that the Board can deny such application based solely on the allegations contained in the

Re: Fredrick M. Bruner, Ph.D., LCMFT

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Charges dated September 9, 2004, and/or any findings of the investigation by the Board. I understand that the Board will only consider my petition for reinstatement if I have first met the conditions outlined in the attached letter from Board Counsel.

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 consulted with an attorney before signing this Letter of Surrender or have knowingly and voluntarily waived my right to do so. 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.

Sincerely,

Fredrick M. Bruner, Ph.D., LCMFT

Re: Fredrick M. Bruner, Ph.D., LCMFT

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#### **NOTARY**

STATE OF <u>Maryland</u>
CITY/COUNTY OF Worcester

HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 17 day of Yurmbur, 2004,
before me, Fredrick M. Broner, PhD a Notary Public of the State and City/Country
(Print Name)
aforesaid, personally appeared Fredrick Bruner, license number LCM011, and declared
and affirmed under the penalties of perjury that signing the foregoing letter of surrender
was his voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS my hand and notarial seal.

Tara P. Blame
TARANTERE ANNIELE

MOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF MARYLAND My commission expires 8/19/2008

My Commission expires:



Re: Fredrick M. Bruner, Ph.D., LCMFT

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#### **ACCEPTANCE**

ON BEHALF OF THE Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists, on this day of the but, 2004, I accept Fredrick Bruner's public letter of surrender of his license to practice marriage and family therapy in the State of Maryland.

Joanne Faber, M.E.D., C.A.S., L.C.P.C., Chair Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists

cc: Noreen Rubin, Board Counsel, Assistant Attorney General Roberta Gill, Assistant Attorney General Administrative Prosecutor Timothy J. Paulus, Deputy Counsel Aileen Taylor, Administrator Sheryl McDonald, Legal Secretary