

Judy Strouse, CSC-AD
6105 Allwood Court
Baltimore, Maryland 21210

October 18, 2016

Carol A. Deel, LCMFT, LCPC, Board Chair
Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215-2299

RE: Surrender of CSC-AD Certificate
Certificate Number: SC0127
Case Number: 2015-25

Dear Dr. Deel and Members of the Board:

I have decided to **SURRENDER** my certificate to practice as a Certified Supervised Counselor - Alcohol and Drug ("CSC-AD"), in the State of Maryland, License Number SC0127, effective immediately.¹ I understand that upon the Board's acceptance of this letter of surrender of my certificate, I may not represent myself to the public by title, by description of services, methods or procedures, or otherwise that I am a CSC-AD. Moreover, I may not engage in the practice of alcohol and drug counseling in the State of Maryland, with or without supervision and/or compensation, as it is defined in the Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists Act (the "Act"), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. ("Health Occ."), §§ 17-101 *et seq.*, (2014 Repl. Vol.) and other applicable laws. In other words, as of the effective date of this Letter of Surrender, I understand that the surrender of my certificate means that I am in the same position as an uncertified or unlicensed individual in the State of Maryland.

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

My decision to surrender my certificate to practice as a CSC-AD in the State of Maryland has been prompted by the Board's investigation and charges that I engaged in a sexual relationship with a former alcohol and drug client who had been in one of my therapy groups for intensive outpatient therapy for approximately three months. My

¹ I allowed my certificate to expire on January 31, 2016; however, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 17-508, for purposes of discipline, since the Board initiated its investigation prior to the expiration of my certificate, while charges are pending, a regulated counselor or therapist may not allow the certificate to lapse by operation of law.

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personal relationship with the client began two months after our client therapist relationship ended, and took place over the course of approximately five months.

I wish to make it clear that I have voluntarily, knowingly, and freely chosen to submit this Letter of Surrender in lieu of the Board proceeding with prosecution of the disciplinary charges.

If the case were to proceed to a hearing, the Board would submit evidence to prove the investigatory findings that I violated the following provisions under the Act: 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); (16) (commits an act of immoral or unprofessional conduct in the practice of clinical or nonclinical counseling or therapy); and the following regulations of the Board: Md. Code Regs. 10.58.03.04A(1), (11) and (14); 10.58.03.04B(3); 10.58.03.05A(2)(a), 10.58.03.05B(1)(a) and (b); and 10.58.03.09A(1) and (4); and 10.58.03.09C(1) and (2); and that for purposes related to certification as a CSC-AD, the investigatory findings will be treated as if proven. I understand that by executing this letter of surrender, I am waiving any right to contest the charges that the Board issued in this case.

I understand that the Board will advise the Federation of State Counseling Boards and the National Practitioners' Data Bank of this Letter of Surrender, and in any response to any inquiry, that I have surrendered my certificate in lieu of disciplinary action under the Act as resolution of the matters pending against me. I also understand that in the event I apply for a certificate in any form in any other state or jurisdiction, 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., Gen. Prov. §§ 4-101-4-601 (2014), and that this Letter of Surrender is considered a disciplinary action by the Board.

I affirm that on or before the date of the Board's acceptance of this Letter of Surrender, I will provide to Board staff a copy of my initial CSC-AD certification, any renewal certificates and my most recent renewal certification issued by the Board.

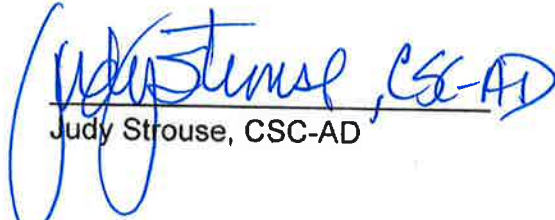
I further recognize and agree that by submitting this Letter of Surrender, my certificate will remain surrendered unless and until I petition the Board for reinstatement; and I understand that when applying for reinstatement, I approach the Board in the same posture as one whose certificate has been revoked based on the investigative findings contained herein and that my petition may be accepted or denied by the Board in its sole discretion.

I understand that if the Board reinstates my certificate to practice as a CSC-AD, the Board may set additional terms and conditions that shall apply to my reinstated or new certificate, which may include the imposition of probation.

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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. 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,


Judy Strouse, CSC-AD


NOTARY

STATE OF Maryland

CITY/COUNTY OF Baltimore

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 18th day of October 2016, before me, a Notary Public of the State and City/County aforesaid, personally appeared Judy Strouse, CSC-AD, 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 official seal.


Notary Public

My Commission expires: 7/18/18



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ACCEPTANCE

On this 7th day of November, 2016, I, Carol A. Deel, LCMFT, LCPC,
Board Chair of the Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists,
accept Judy Strouse, CSC-AD's **PUBLIC SURRENDER** of her certificate to practice as
a Certified Supervised Counselor - Alcohol and Drug, in the State of Maryland.


Carol A. Deel, LCMFT, LCPC

Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists