

**NASTARAN ZONOZI, L.D.N.**  
**7811 Twincrest Court**  
**McLean, Virginia 22101**

July 17, 2014

Melanie Brooks, R.D., L.D.N., Chair  
Maryland State Board of Dietetic Practice  
4201 Patterson Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21215-2299

RE: Surrender of License to Practice Dietetics  
License Number: DX2968  
Case Number: 13-006

Dear Ms. Brooks and Members of the Board:

I have decided to voluntarily **SURRENDER** my license to practice dietetics in the State of Maryland, License Number DX2968 effective **July 17, 2014**. I understand that upon the Board's acceptance of this letter of surrender of my license, I may not represent myself to the public by title, by description of services, methods or procedures, or otherwise that I am a licensed dietitian or nutritionist. Moreover, I understand that upon surrender of my license, I may not provide dietetic or nutritional advice or recommendations to any individual, with or without compensation, and cannot otherwise engage in the practice of dietetics/nutrition in the State of Maryland as it is defined in the Maryland Licensed Dietitian-Nutritionists Act (the "Act"), Md. Health Occ. Code Ann. ("Health Occ."), §§ 5-101 *et seq.* (2009 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 license means that effective **July 17, 2014** I will be 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. I also understand that upon acceptance by the Board, I agree not to accept new patients under my care. To the extent applicable, I agree to appropriately refer any existing patients to other health care providers for continued treatment and care.

My decision to surrender my license to practice dietetics in the State of Maryland has been prompted by an investigation of my license by the Maryland State Board of Dietetic Practice (the "Board") and the Maryland Office of the Attorney General. The

Melanie Brooks and Members of the Board

RE: Nastaran Zonozi, L.D.N.

License Number: DX2968

Case Number: 13-006

Page 2

investigation resulted in the Board's issuance of Charges under the Act ("Charges") against my license to practice dietetics in the State of Maryland.

I have decided to surrender my license to practice dietetics/nutrition in the State of Maryland to avoid further prosecution of the disciplinary charges now pending before the Board. On or about March 20, 2014, the Board issued disciplinary charges under Md. Health Occ. Code Ann. § 5-311 (3), (10), and (12). Specifically, the Board charged me with:

- (3) Violates any provision of this title or any regulations adopted under this title;
- (10) Commits any act of unprofessional conduct, as defined by the rules and regulations of the Board, or violates the code of ethics adopted by the Board; [and]
- (12) Is disciplined by a licensing or disciplinary authority of any other state or country or convicted or disciplined by a court of any other state or country for an act that would be grounds for disciplinary action under this section[.]

The Board further charged me with violations of COMAR 10.56.03.03 as follows:

B. The licensee shall function with discretion and integrity in relationships with other licensees of the Board and other health professionals.

C. The licensee shall practice dietetics or nutrition with honesty, integrity, self-respect, and fairness.

D. The licensee may not:

- (1) Knowingly participate in or condone behavior which is dishonest, fraudulent, or deceitful[.]

E. A licensee shall:

\* \* \*

(5) Maintain confidentiality of information as follows:

(a) Safeguard information obtained in clinical or consulting relationships, including storage and disposal of written and electronic records;

(b) Reveal confidential information to others only with informed consent of the client or patient or the client's or patient's legal representative;

(c) Release health records only as permitted by Health-General Article, §§4-301-4-307, Annotated Code of

Melanie Brooks and Members of the Board

RE: Nastaran Zonozi, L.D.N.

License Number: DX2968

Case Number: 13-006

Page 3

Maryland; [and]

(7) Exercise professional judgment within the limits of the licensee's qualifications, and seek counsel or make a referral when the client's or patient's needs are beyond the parameters of the licensee's education, capabilities, experience[.]

As set forth in the Charges, the Board alleged the following<sup>1</sup>:

1. I was initially licensed to practice as a dietitian-nutritionist by the District of Columbia Health Professional Licensing Administration ("D.C. Board") on May 27, 1992. The D.C. Board summarily suspended my license on February 5, 2013. The summary suspension of my license was based on my failure to abide by the conditions of a Negotiated Settlement Agreement ("Agreement") with the Board, dated October 16, 2011, wherein I agreed to a competency examination and submission of quarterly supervisory reports. For health-related reasons, I failed to comply with the October 16, 2011 Agreement.
2. From March 8, 2012 until November 9, 2012, I was employed as a licensed dietitian by Facility A, a skilled nursing facility operating in Maryland. During the course of my duties, I brought to the attention of my supervisors, suspected allegations of elder neglect.
3. On November 9, 2012, I was suspended from my employment duties as a dietitian based upon alleged violations of Facility A's policies and procedures.
4. On or about January 14, 2013, my suspension was converted to a termination based upon alleged violations of Facility A's policies and procedures, and alleged infractions of my conditions of suspension.
5. Specifically, Facility A alleged that I acted outside the scope of dietetic practice by giving medication to two (2) patients.
6. Facility A also alleged that I disclosed confidential patient specific health care information to unauthorized third parties without patient consent. These disclosures of confidential health care information occurred after I filed a complaint against Facility A, for elder abuse and neglect.

The Board conducted an investigation of the circumstances leading to the summary suspension of my D.C. license and the termination of my employment

---

<sup>1</sup> For purposes of this Letter of Surrender, I have summarized the allegations in the Charges. This summary does not purport to be a complete recitation of the Allegations of Fact.

Melanie Brooks and Members of the Board

RE: Nastaran Zonozi, L.D.N.

License Number: DX2968

Case Number: 13-006

Page 4

with Facility A. I cooperated with that investigation and acknowledge the following:

1. I am not practicing dietetics/nutrition in the State of the Maryland and have no present intention to return to the practice of dietetics/nutrition in the State of Maryland.
2. I did not fully understand that the D.C. Board summarily suspended my license to practice as of February 5, 2013. I mistakenly believed that I voluntarily surrendered my license to practice in D.C. because of my desire to work in the state of Virginia close to my home.
3. I gave<sup>2</sup> medication to at least one (1) patient but did so with no ill intention. I now understand that this was outside the scope of my duties as a licensed dietitian.
4. In various emails that I wrote and distributed to third parties, I used patient names and diagnoses. I believed that I had the permission of the patients' families to use their names and confidential health care information. I now understand that these disclosures were a violation of Facility A's policies, and federal and state privacy laws.

I wish to make it clear that I have voluntarily, knowingly and freely chosen to submit this Letter of Surrender to avoid further prosecution under the Act, in order to resolve this matter. I acknowledge that if the case proceeded to an evidentiary hearing on the Charges, the Board would submit evidence in support of the allegations set forth in the Charges. I further acknowledge that for all purposes relevant to licensure, the Board's investigative findings as summarized in the Charges, will be treated as if proven.

I understand that by executing this Letter of Surrender, for the purpose of resolving the Charges, I am waiving any right to contest the Charges 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 Federation of State Dietetics Boards and the National Practitioners' Data Bank of this Letter of Surrender and in any response to inquiry, that I have surrendered my license to avoid further disciplinary action under the Act. 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 may be released or published by the Board to the same extent as a final order that would result from

---

<sup>2</sup> The medication was prescribed by a physician and was dispensed by a nurse. I took the medication from the nurse and gave it to the patient because I had a good rapport with the patient.

Melanie Brooks and Members of the Board

RE: Nastaran Zonozi, L.D.N.

License Number: DX2968

Case Number: 13-006

Page 5

disciplinary action, pursuant to Md. State Gov't. Code Ann § 10-611 *et seq.* (2009 Repl. Vol.), and that this Letter of Surrender would constitute disciplinary action by the Board.

I hereby affirm that no later than July 17, 2014, I will not maintain a dietetics/nutritionists' practice in the State of Maryland. I agree that on or before July 17, 2014, the effective date of this Letter of Surrender, I shall deliver to the Board my original Maryland license number DX2968, and my most recent wallet-sized renewal card.

I affirm that as a condition of the Board's acceptance of this surrender of my license in lieu of further prosecution, I recognize and agree that my license will remain surrendered for a minimum of **ONE (1) YEAR** from the effective date of surrender. I understand and agree that that after one (1) year I may apply for reinstatement of my license to practice, **ONLY** if I have complied with the following conditions:

1. I have successfully completed a Board approved professional ethics course specific to the practice of dietetics and nutrition;
2. I have successfully completed a Board approved course in patient confidentiality, privacy and the laws regulating the disclosure of personal health care information; and
3. I have undergone an independent, comprehensive mental health examination by a Board selected mental health care provider, and the results of that examination support the reinstatement of my licensure in Maryland.

I understand that I will approach the Board in the same position as an individual who is unlicensed and that my entire file will be reviewed to determine my compliance with the conditions precedent to my application for reinstatement of my licensure.

I understand that the Board can deny my request for reinstatement based solely on the investigative findings and Allegations of Fact set forth in the Charges. I understand that the Board has the sole discretion to accept or deny my petition for reinstatement and shall set forth prerequisite conditions for reinstatement. I understand that I bear the burden of demonstrating to the Board that I am competent to practice dietetics, am current on continuing education, and possess good moral character as a specified under the Act. If the Board reinstates my license to practice dietetics at some future date, I acknowledge that the Board may set additional terms and conditions that shall apply to my receiving a reinstated or new license, which may include the imposition of probation.

Melanie Brooks and Members of the Board

RE: Nastaran Zonozi, L.D.N.

License Number: DX2968

Case Number: 13-006

Page 6

I acknowledge that I may not rescind this Letter of Surrender in part or in its entirety for any reason whatsoever. 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 dietetics pursuant to the terms and conditions set out herein.

Sincerely,



Nastaran Zonozi, L.D.N.

**NOTARY**

STATE OF MARYLAND

CITY/COUNTY OF Howard

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 17 day of July, 2014, before me, a Notary Public of the State and City/County aforesaid, personally appeared Nastaran Zonozi, L.D.N., 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: 11/10/16

**ACCEPTANCE**

On behalf of the Maryland Board of Dietetics, on this 17 day of July 2014, I accept Nastaran Zonozi, L.D.N.'s **PUBLIC SURRENDER** of her license to practice dietetics in the State of Maryland.

Melanie Brooks and Members of the Board

RE: Nastaran Zonozi, L.D.N.

License Number: DX2968

Case Number: 13-006

Page 7

7/17/14  
Date

*Melanie Brooks*  
Melanie Brooks, R.D., L.D.N.  
Board Chair  
Maryland State Board of Dietetics