

IN THE MATTER OF	*	BEFORE THE MARYLAND
RICARDO LAGRANGE, PH.D.	*	BOARD OF EXAMINERS
LICENSE NO. 04481	*	OF PSYCHOLOGISTS
Respondent	*	Case No. 2013-016

* * * * *

CONSENT ORDER

HISTORY

On or about December 27, 2012, the Maryland Board of Examiners of Psychologists (the “Board”) received information indicating that Ricardo LaGrange, Ph.D., a psychologist licensed by the Board to practice psychology in Maryland, License No. 04481, was employing as psychology associates individuals never approved as psychology associates by the Board. Upon investigation, the Board discovered that Dr. LaGrange allowed one individual (“Employee A”) to work for him as a psychology associate despite the fact that Employee A was not an approved psychology associate with the Board, and despite the fact that Employee A was educated and trained in social work.

In lieu of instituting formal proceedings against Dr. LaGrange, in accordance with the Maryland Psychologists Act, Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 18-101 *et seq.*, and Board regulations, COMAR 10.36.01, a Pre-charge Case Resolution Conference (“CRC”) was held with members of the Board, Board Counsel, Dr. LaGrange, and his counsel on September 12, 2014. Thereafter, the Board and Dr. LaGrange agreed to resolve this matter as set forth in this Consent Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. At all times relevant hereto, Dr. LaGrange was licensed as a psychologist with the Board,

License No. 04481. Dr. LaGrange was first licensed on February 2, 2009. His license is currently active and set to expire on March 31, 2015.

2. On or about December 27, 2012, the Board received information from an insurance company indicating that Dr. LaGrange may be employing as psychology associates individuals who were not approved as psychology associates by the Board.

3. During an audit of Dr. LaGrange's practice, the insurance company asked for proof that the individuals were approved psychology associates and were provide with four letters purportedly written by the Board approving those individuals as psychology associates. Upon review, the Board discovered that one of the four letters (the letter for Employee A) was never written by the Board and was fraudulent.

4. Employee A, who worked for Dr. LaGrange approximately 3-4 hours per week between November 2011 and June 2013, was never approved by the Board to practice as a psychology associate. Because he had a master's degree in social work, Employee A was ineligible for approval as a psychology associate.

5. On September 12, 2014, the Board held a CRC with Dr. LaGrange. At the CRC, Dr. LaGrange stated that the issue was an "administrative oversight," and that administrative staff forgot to send Employee A's application to be a psychology associate to the Board and were most likely responsible for the fraudulent letter sent to the insurance company. Dr. LaGrange informed the Board that Employee A stopped seeing patients after the insurance company informed Dr. LaGrange that Employee A was not an approved psychology associate. Dr. LaGrange also informed the Board that he now individually sends all psychology associate applications to the Board.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes that Dr. LaGrange is subject to discipline pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 18-313(5), (7), and (12), and COMAR 10.36.05.03B.

ORDER

It is this 9th day of January, 2015, by an affirmative vote of the Maryland Board of Examiners of Psychologists, hereby:

ORDERED that Dr. LaGrange's license be placed on immediate PROBATION for at least ONE (1) YEAR, during which he shall:

1. Successfully complete a Board-approved ethics tutorial, focusing on ethical and legal issues relevant to clinical supervision of psychology associates, documentation and record keeping, and related business practices issues, which shall be in addition to other continuing education activities required for licensure renewal, and ensure that the tutor provides a report to the Board detailing the results of the tutorial upon completion of the tutorial; and
2. Obtain ongoing, face-to-face supervision of his business practices from a Board-approved supervisor on an at-least monthly basis, with duration and frequency to be determined by the supervisor, and ensure that his supervisor provides quarterly progress reports to the Board; and be it further,

ORDERED that after one (1) year of probation, Dr. LaGrange may petition the Board to terminate probation, provided that he has been fully compliant with the terms of probation and does not have any pending complaints filed against him; and be it further,

ORDERED that Dr. LaGrange shall agree and consent to the release by the Board to his

Board-approved tutor and Board-approved supervisor the complete investigative file in this case; and be it further,

ORDERED that Dr. LaGrange shall at all times cooperate with the Board in the monitoring, supervision, and investigation of his compliance with the terms and conditions of this Order; and be it further,

ORDERED that Dr. LaGrange's failure to fully cooperate with the Board shall be deemed a violation of the probationary terms and a violation of this Order; and be it further,

ORDERED that in the event the Board finds in good faith that Dr. LaGrange has violated any of the conditions of probation herein, or in the event the Board finds in good faith that Dr. LaGrange has committed a violation of Title 18 of the Health Occupations Article or regulations adopted thereunder, the Board may take further disciplinary action against Dr. LaGrange, provided that Dr. LaGrange is given notice and an opportunity for a hearing; and be it further,

ORDERED that Dr. LaGrange shall bear the expenses associated with this Order; and be it further,

ORDERED that this is a formal order of the Maryland Board of Examiners of Psychologists and as such is a public document pursuant to Maryland Code Ann., General Provisions § 4-333(b).

January 9, 2015
Date

Steven Sobelman, Ph.D., Chair
Maryland Board of Examiners of Psychologists

CONSENT

1. By signing this Consent, I hereby affirm the findings of fact contained herein and agree to be bound by the foregoing Consent Order and its conditions.
2. By signing this Consent, I submit to the foregoing Consent Order as a resolution of this matter.
3. By signing this Consent, I waive any rights I may have had to contest the findings and determinations contained in this Consent Order.
4. I acknowledge that this is a formal order of the Board and as such is a public document.
5. I acknowledge the legal authority and the jurisdiction of the Board to enter and enforce this Consent Order.
6. I sign this Consent Order freely and voluntarily, after having had the opportunity to consult with counsel. I fully understand the language, meaning, and effect of this Consent Order.

1/22/15
Date

Ricardo LaGrange Ph.D.

STATE OF MARYLAND
COUNTY/CITY OF ADNE ARUNDEL

I hereby certify that on this 22nd day of JAN, 201⁵~~4~~, before me, a Notary Public of the State of Maryland and County/City aforesaid, personally appeared RICARDO LAGRANGE, and made an oath in due form that the foregoing Consent was his voluntary act and deed.

Margaret E. Maguire
Notary Public
My commission expires: 10-2-2015