

IN THE MATTER OF	*	BEFORE THE MARYLAND
DEVON STOKES, PH.D.	*	BOARD OF EXAMINERS
APPLICANT FOR	*	OF PSYCHOLOGISTS
PSYCHOLOGIST LICENSURE	*	Case No. 2013-022

* * * * *

CONSENT ORDER FOR INITIAL LICENSURE

HISTORY

On or about February 7, 2013, the Maryland Board of Examiners of Psychologists (the "Board") received an application for licensure as a psychologist from DeVon Stokes, Ph.D. On his application, Dr. Stokes answered "no" to all of the personal attestation questions but disclosed that he surrendered his psychologist license in Nevada in 2010 due to a mental illness. The Board's subsequent investigation revealed a history of criminal and disciplinary actions against Dr. Stokes related to his mental illness. As a result, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 18-314, the Board referred Dr. Stokes for an evaluation by a Board-appointed evaluator to determine if he is competent to practice as a psychologist. The Board received a report on Dr. Stokes from the evaluator with certain recommendations which have been incorporated herein.

In lieu of instituting formal proceedings against Dr. Stokes, 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, and Dr. Stokes on May 9, 2014. Thereafter, the Board and Dr. Stokes agreed to resolve this matter as set forth in this Consent Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On or about February 7, 2013, the Board received an application for licensure as a

psychologist from Dr. Stokes. On his application, Dr. Stokes answered “no” to all of the personal attestation questions; after the question related to disciplinary actions in other states, however, Dr. Stokes disclosed that he surrendered his license to practice psychology in Nevada in 2010 following the onset of a mental illness.

2. The Board’s subsequent investigation revealed that Dr. Stokes voluntarily surrendered his license in Nevada indefinitely after the Nevada Board of Psychological Examiners alleged that his was not competent to safely practice psychology. This allegation followed a criminal case where, although he was eventually found not guilty of mail fraud, the court found the need to appoint a guardian for Dr. Stokes.

3. Around the same time, Dr. Stokes also allowed his license to practice psychology in Washington State to lapse.

4. On or about November 12, 2013, the Board referred Dr. Stokes for an evaluation by a Board-appointed evaluator to determine if he is competent to practice as a psychologist. On or about March 28, 2014, the Board received the evaluator’s report. The evaluator found that Dr. Stokes’ prior criminal and disciplinary history was related to an undiagnosed and untreated mental illness. The evaluator also found that Dr. Stokes had been stable, from a psychiatric perspective, since April 2011, and opined that Dr. Stokes is not currently impaired by his mental illness. The evaluator expressed his professional opinion that Dr. Stokes is competent to practice as a psychologist, provided that he remain under the care of a psychiatrist and therapist and comply with their recommendations with respect to his treatment and medication.

5. On May 9, 2014, the Board held a CRC with Dr. Stokes. At the CRC, Dr. Stokes informed the Board of his current treatment regimen and stated his belief that he could competently practice as a psychologist provided that he continue to treat his chronic illness. Dr.

Stokes also informed the Board that he had last worked as a psychologist over three years ago and stated that he would follow any recommendations necessary to allow him to practice as a psychologist.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes that Dr. Stokes is subject to discipline pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 18-302(b) and 18-313(3), (11), and (14).

ORDER

It is this **9th day of May, 2014**, by an affirmative vote of the Maryland Board of Examiners of Psychologists, hereby:

ORDERED that Dr. Stokes' application for licensure as a psychologist be GRANTED, provided that he:

1. Is otherwise qualified for licensure; and
2. First takes 20 hours in continuing education, to include a minimum of three (3) hours in ethics and three (3) hours in DSM-5 and diagnosis, with the remainder in practice areas directly relevant to his intended area of practice, all of which may count toward the continuing education required for the first renewal of his license; and be it further,

ORDERED that upon issuance, Dr. Stokes' license be placed on immediate PROBATION for at least TWO (2) YEARS, during which he shall:

1. Receive at least one (1) hour per week of face-to-face peer supervision from a Board-approved psychologist supervisor, unless the supervisor authorizes less than one (1) hour per week, and ensure that his supervisor provides quarterly progress reports to the Board;
2. Receive psychotherapy from a Board-approved licensed mental health provider, on a

weekly basis unless less is authorized by the mental health provider, and ensure that his mental health provider provides quarterly progress reports to the Board; and

3. Continue medication management with his treating psychiatrist, and ensure that his treating psychiatrist provides quarterly progress reports to the Board; and be it further,

ORDERED that after two (2) years of probation, Dr. Stokes may petition the Board to terminate probation, provided that he has been fully compliant with the terms of probation, he does not have any pending complaints filed against him, and he is of stable mental condition; and be it further,

ORDERED that Dr. Stokes' execution of this Order shall constitute a release of any and all medical records and mental health treatment records pertaining to Dr. Stokes to the Board in complying with the terms and conditions set forth herein; and be it further,

ORDERED that Dr. Stokes shall agree and consent to the release by the Board to his psychologist supervisor the complete investigative file in this case; and be it further,

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

ORDERED that Dr. Stokes' 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. Stokes has violated any of the conditions of probation herein, or in the event the Board finds in good faith that Dr. Stokes has committed a violation of Title 18 of the Health Occupations Article or regulations adopted thereunder, the Board may immediately summarily suspend Dr. Stokes' license prior to a hearing, provided that Dr. Stokes is given the opportunity for a show cause hearing within a

reasonable time of such action; and be it further,

ORDERED that Dr. Stokes 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., State Gov't § 10-617(h).

7/11/14

Date

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

CONSENT

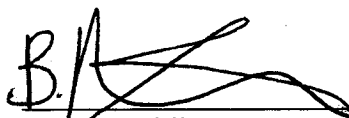
1. By signing this Consent, I hereby affirm the findings of fact contained herein and agree to be bound by the foregoing Consent Order and its conditions.
2. By this Consent, I submit to the foregoing Consent Order as a resolution of this matter. By signing this Consent, I waive any rights I may have had to contest the findings and determinations contained in this Consent Order.
3. I acknowledge that this is a formal order of the Board and as such is a public document.
4. I acknowledge the legal authority and the jurisdiction of the Board to enter and enforce this Consent Order.
5. 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.

6/28/14
Date

DeVon Stokes, Ph.D.

STATE OF MARYLAND
COUNTY/CITY OF Anne Arundel

I hereby certify that on this 28 day of June, 2014, before me, a Notary Public of the State of Maryland and County/City aforesaid, personally appeared DEVON STOKES, and made an oath in due form that the foregoing Consent was his voluntary act and deed.



Notary Public

My commission expires: _____

