

**ROBERT B. BOWDEN, LCPC**

September 20, 2019  
DATE

Risa Ganel, LCMFT, Board Chair  
State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists  
4201 Patterson Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

RE: Surrender of Professional Counselors License  
License Number: LC2595  
Case Number: 2018-041

Dear Ms. Ganel and Members of the Board:

Please be advised that I have decided to **SURRENDER** my license to practice as a professional counselor in the State of Maryland, License Number:LC2595, effective immediately. I understand that upon surrender of my license, I may not practice professional counseling, with or without compensation, or otherwise engage in the practice of professional counseling in the State of Maryland as it is defined in the Maryland Professional Counselors and Therapists Act (the "Act"), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. ("Health .Occ.") §§ 17-101 *et seq.*, (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2018 Supp.) and other applicable laws. In other words, as of the effective date of this Letter of Surrender, I understand that I am 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.

My decision to surrender my license to practice professional counseling in the State of Maryland has been prompted by an investigation of my license by the Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the "Board"). The results of the investigation led the Board to issue disciplinary charges against me on or about April 19, 2019, under Case Number: 2018-041.

I have decided to surrender my license to practice as a professional counselor the State of Maryland to avoid further prosecution of the disciplinary charges now pending before the Board. I acknowledge that the Board could have revoked my license following an evidentiary hearing.

I also acknowledge that the Board initiated an investigation of this matter and issued disciplinary charges against me under the Act. After its investigation, the Board charged me with violating the following provisions of 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[.]

The Board also charged me with violating the following provisions of COMAR 10.58.03:

.05 The Counseling Relationship.

A. Client Welfare and Rights.

(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 [.]

B. Dual Relationships.

(1) A counselor shall:

- (a) Avoid dual relationships with clients [.]

.09 Sexual Misconduct.

A. A counselor may not engage in sexual misconduct with a client or supervisee. Sexual misconduct includes but is not limited to:

- (1) Inappropriate sexual language;
- (2) Sexual exploitation;
- (3) Sexual harassment;
- (4) Sexual behavior; and
- (5) Therapeutic deception.

E. Sexual Harassment.

- (1) A counselor may not sexually harass a:

(a) Client[.]

I wish to make clear that I have voluntarily, knowingly, and freely chosen to submit this Letter of Surrender to avoid prosecution of the charges under the Act. I acknowledge that if the case were to proceed to an evidentiary hearing, the State would be able to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that I violated the Act as charged. I acknowledge that for all purposes relevant to professional counseling licensure, those investigative findings will be treated as if proven.

I further acknowledge that the State can prove that I sent sexually suggestive text messages to a client, ("Client A")<sup>1</sup>. These text messages were sent while I was intoxicated. However, I acknowledge that the text messages were highly inappropriate. The State can also prove that I asked Client A if the two of us could go out to get something to eat and or/go hiking.

I understand that by executing this Letter of Surrender 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 National Practitioners' Data Bank of this Letter of Surrender, and in any response to any inquiry, that I have surrendered my license, in lieu of a hearing on the revocation of my license, as further disciplinary action under the Act. I also understand that in the event I would apply for license in any form in any other state or jurisdiction, that 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., State Govt., § 10-611 *et seq.*, (2014 Repl. Vol & 2018 Supp.), and that this Letter of Surrender is considered a disciplinary action by the Board.

I affirm that on or before the date of Board's acceptance of this Letter of Surrender, I will provide to Board staff my professional counselors licenses.

As a condition of petitioning for reinstatement of my Maryland License, I will submit to a mental health evaluation by a Board-assigned evaluator at my expense. I will also need to provide documentation that I have satisfied all my continuing education requirements for all subsequent renewal periods that I am not licensed by the Board. If I apply for reinstatement of my Maryland License, I understand that the Board is not

---

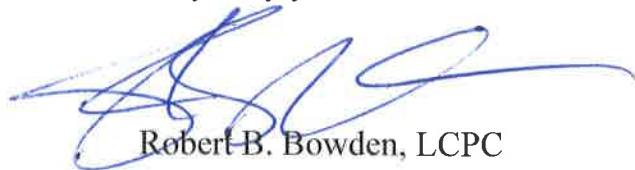
<sup>1</sup> The name A referred to in this document has been admitted in order to protect patient confidentiality.

Robert B. Bowden, LCPC  
Letter of Surrender  
License No.: LC2595; Case No.: 2018-041  
Page 4 of 5

required to grant reinstatement and, if it does grant reinstatement, may impose any terms and conditions the Board considers appropriate for public safety and the protection of the integrity and reputation of the profession. I understand that when applying for reinstatement, I will approach Board in the same posture as one whose license has been revoked. I also understand that if I apply for reinstatement, I bear the burden of demonstrating my professional competence and fitness to practice as a professional counselor to the satisfaction of the Board.

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 been advised of my right to be represented by the attorney of my choice throughout proceedings before the Board, including the right to counsel with an attorney prior to 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 voluntarily choose to surrender my Maryland license to practice profession counseling pursuant to the terms and conditions set out herein. I make this decision knowingly and voluntarily.

Very truly yours,



Robert B. Bowden, LCPC

Robert B. Bowden, LCPC  
Letter of Surrender  
License No.: LC2595; Case No.: 2018-041  
Page 5 of 5

**NOTARY**

**STATE OF MARYLAND**

~~CITY~~ COUNTY OF Harford

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of September 2019

before me, a Notary Public of the State and City/County aforesaid, personally appeared  
**ROBERT B. BOWDEN, LCPC**, 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.



ACI  
Notary Public

My Commission expires: May 18, 2020

**ACCEPTANCE**

On this 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2019, I,

Risa Ganel, LCMFT, on behalf of the Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors  
and Therapists, accept the **SURRENDER** of the license of **ROBERT B. BOWDEN**,  
**LCPC** to practice as a professional counselor in the State of Maryland.

Risa Ganel, LCMFT  
Risa Ganel, LCMFT, Board Chair,  
Maryland State Board of Professional  
Counselors and therapists