

<p>IN THE MATTER OF</p> <p>WILLIAM ENGLISH, CSC-AD</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Respondent</p> <p>Certificate No. SC2817</p>	<p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p>	<p>BEFORE THE</p> <p>STATE BOARD OF</p> <p>PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS</p> <p>AND THERAPISTS</p> <p>Case No. 2020-099</p>
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FINAL ORDER

On July 16, 2021, the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the "Board") hereby notified **WILLIAM ENGLISH, CSC-AD**, (the "Respondent"), **Certificate No. SC2817**, of the Board’s intent to **REVOKE** his certificate to practice as a **Certified Supervised Counselor—Alcohol and Drug (“CSC-AD”)**, pursuant to the Maryland Professional Counselors and Therapists Act (the “Act”), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 17-101, *et seq.*, (2014 Repl. Vol. and 2020 Supp.) and Md. Code Regs. (“COMAR”) 10.58.03 *et seq.*

The basis for the Board’s action was pursuant to the following provisions of the Act and COMAR:

§ 17-509. Denial, probation, suspension or revocation of trainee status, license, or certificate.

Subject to the hearing provisions of Section 17-511 of this subtitle, the Board, on the affirmative vote of a majority of its members then serving, may deny trainee status, a license, or a certificate to any applicant, place any trainee, licensee, or certificate holder on probation, reprimand any trainee, licensee, or certificate holder, or suspend, rescind, or revoke the status of any trainee, a license of any licensee, or a certificate of any certificate holder if the applicant, trainee, licensee, or certificate holder:

- (8) Violates the code of ethics adopted by the Board;

- (11) Is professionally... incompetent;
- (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[.]

In addition, the Board charged the Respondent with a violation of its Code of Ethics, in particular:

COMAR 10.58.03.02 Definitions.

- A. In this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated.
- B. Terms Defined.
 - (2) Client.
 - (a) "Client" means an individual... to whom a counselor is rendering professional service.

COMAR 10.58.03.04

- A. A counselor shall:
 - (1) Consult with other counselors or other relevant professionals regarding questions related to ethical obligations or professional practice;
 - (11) Be familiar with and adhere to this chapter;
 - (14) Take reasonable precautions to protect clients from physical or psychological trauma.
- B. A counselor may not:
 - (2) Participate in dishonest, fraudulent, or deceitful activity in the capacity of a counselor; or
 - (3) Enter into relationships that could compromise a counselor's objectivity or create a conflict of interest.

COMAR 10.58.03.05

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[.]

ALLEGATIONS OF FACT

The Board bases its charges on the following facts that the Board has cause to believe are true:

BACKGROUND

1. At all times relevant to the charges herein, the Respondent was certified to Practice Certified Supervised Counseling—Alcohol and Drug in the State of Maryland. The Respondent was first issued a certificate on March 25, 2020. His certificate expires on January 31, 2022.

2. At all times relevant herein, the Respondent served as a Counselor/Case Manager at an aftercare treatment housing unit (the “Facility”)¹ in Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland.

¹ Names of facilities/individuals are confidential.

COMPLAINT

3. On or about May 4, 2020, the Board received a complaint (the “Complaint”) from the Clinical Supervisor of the Facility stating that the Respondent had borrowed \$1000 from a client of the Facility.

4. The Complainant alleged that when he learned of the loan, he spoke with the client, who confirmed that he had “lent” \$1000 to the Respondent, who promised to pay the client back.

5. The Complainant then spoke with the Respondent, who acknowledged borrowing the money from the client, and stated that he “knew it was wrong, and unethical, but he could not let his kids be homeless” and “had every intention of paying the money back”.

6. As a result of this incident, the Respondent’s employment with the Facility was immediately terminated. The Respondent told the Complainant that he “understood” the reason for the termination. The Complainant reported that one of the Respondent’s duties was to assist the client in opening a bank account and the money may have been a stimulus check received.

7. The Respondent provided group therapy to the client on nineteen different dates.

8. As of September 2020, when the Board’s Investigator interviewed the Respondent, the Respondent had not paid the client back and claimed that the Facility had reimbursed the client—which it had not.

GROUND FOR DISCIPLINE

9. As set forth above, by borrowing money from a client for whom one is providing drug counseling, the Respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct, violated the Code of Ethics and was professionally incompetent, in violation of Health Occ. §17-509(8) (Violates the code of ethics adopted by the Board); §17-509(11)(Is professionally... incompetent);and (16) (Commits an act of immoral or unprofessional conduct in the practice of clinical or nonclinical counseling or therapy)[.] The Respondent also violated §17-509(13)(Violates any rule or regulation adopted by the Board) in that the Respondent violated COMAR 10.58.03.04 A. (A counselor shall: (11) (Be familiar with and adhere to this chapter); (14) (Take reasonable precautions to protect clients from physical or psychological trauma.) B. (A counselor may not: (3) Enter into relationships that could compromise a counselor's objectivity or create a conflict of interest); (COMAR 10.58.03.05 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 . . . ; B. Dual Relationships. (1) A counselor shall: (a) Avoid dual relationships with clients [;]).

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes that the Respondent violated § of H.O. § 17-509 (8), (11), (13) and (16) of the Act and COMAR 10.58.03.02 A. and B. 2. (a) and COMAR 10.58.03.04 A. (1), (11) and (14) and B (2) and (3), COMAR 10.58.03.05 A. (2) (a) and B (1) (a).

ORDER

As set forth above, the Board hereby orders that the license to practice as a Certified Supervised Counselor—Alcohol and Drug in Maryland held by **WILLIAM ENGLISH, CSC-AD, Certificate No. SC2817**, the Respondent, be and is **REVOKED**, and that this Order is public, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., General Provisions §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2014 Vol. and 2020 Supp.).

NOTICE OF RIGHT OF APPEAL

In accordance with §17-512 of the Act and Md. Code. Ann., State Government, §§10-201, *et seq.*, (2014 Repl. Vol. and 2020 Supp.), you have a right to a direct judicial appeal of this decision. A petition for appeal of the Final Board Order shall be filed within thirty days from your receipt of this Final Order and shall be made in accordance with the aforesaid authority.

October 15, 2021
Date



Jeffrey M. Galecki, Board Chair
State Board of Professional Counselors and
Therapists

