

IN THE MATTER OF * BEFORE THE MARYLAND
 RENA C. SARD * BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL
 ADT APPLICANT * COUNSELORS AND
 * THERAPISTS
 * CASE NO: 2021-015

* * * * *

FINAL ORDER OF DENIAL OF ALCHOL AND DRUG TRAINEE APPLICATION

The Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the "Board") notified **Rena C. Sard** (the "Applicant"), of the Board's intent to deny her Alcohol and Drug Trainee Application under the Maryland Professional Counselors and Therapists Act (the "Act"), Md. Code Ann., Health Occupations ("Health. Occ.") §§17-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2020 Supp.). The pertinent provisions of the Act state:

Health Occ. §17-509.

Denial, probation, suspension or revocation of training status, license, or certificate.

Subject to the hearing provisions of § 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:

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- (10) Is convicted of or pleads guilty or nolo contendere to a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude, whether or not any appeal or other proceeding is pending to have the conviction or plea set aside[.]

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. In July 2019, the Board received an Alcohol and Drug Trainee Application (the "Application") from the Applicant.

2. On her Application, the Applicant answered "yes" to the following question under "Information Regarding Background":

Have you pled guilty, nolo contendere, or been convicted of, received probation before judgment, or had a conviction set aside for any criminal act (excluding traffic violations)?

3. An investigation by Board staff revealed the following regarding the Applicant's Criminal History:¹

Facts Pertaining to the Applicant's 2011 Conviction for Felony Child Abuse

- A. On or about October 5, 2011, the Applicant was found guilty, following a jury trial, in the Circuit Court for Dorchester County, Maryland, to one (1) count of Child Abuse in the Second Degree, a felony, one (1) count of Wear/Carrying a Dangerous Weapon with the Intent to Injure, and two (2) counts of Assault in the Second Degree.
- B. On or about January 9, 2012, the Applicant was sentenced to fifteen (15) years in jail with all but seven (7) years suspended, for Child Abuse in the Second Degree; three (3) years for Wear/Carrying a Dangerous with the Intent to Injure; and a ten (10) year suspended sentence for Assault in the Second Degree.
- C. Following her release from prison, the Applicant was placed on five (5) years of supervised probation and ordered to successfully complete an anger management program; pay court cost and have no unsupervised contact with unrelated children.

Facts Pertaining to the Applicant's 2004 Conviction for Assault

¹ Some information regarding the Applicant's criminal history is no longer available due to the length of time of the events.

- A. On or about August 2, 2004, the Applicant was found guilty of one (1) count of Assault in the Second Degree, in the District Court for Talbot County, Maryland.
- B. On or about August 2, 2004, the Applicant was placed on supervised probation.

Facts Pertaining to the Applicant's 1994 Conviction for Theft

- A. On or about October 4, 1994, the Applicant plead guilty to one (1) count of Passing Bad Check Under \$300 in the District Court for Dorchester County, Maryland.

Facts Pertaining to the Applicant's 1991 Conviction for Battery

- A. On April 8, 1991, the Applicant plead guilty to one (1) count of Battery in the District to Court for Dorchester County, Maryland.
- B. The Applicant was sentenced to thirty (30) days in jail with all, but twenty-eight (28) days suspended.
- C. Following her release from prison, the Applicant was placed on supervised probation for two (2) years and ordered to pay court costs.

Facts Pertaining to the Applicant's 1985 Conviction for Assault and Battery

- A. On or about November 20, 1985, the Applicant was found guilty in the District Court for Dorchester County, Maryland, to one (1) count of Assault and one (1) count of Battery.
- B. The Applicant received a ten (10) day suspended sentence. She was placed on unsupervised probation and ordered to pay court costs.
- 4. The Respondent's conduct as set forth above is in violation of Health Occ.

§17-509 (10).

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this
15th day of October, 2021, a majority of a quorum of the Board hereby:

ORDERED that the Applicant's Application for trainee status in the State of Maryland is **DENIED**; and it is further

ORDERED that the effective date of this Order is the date that it is signed by the Board; and it is further


ORDERED that this Order is reportable to the National Practitioner Bank; and it further

ORDERED that this document constitutes a formal disciplinary action of the Board and this Order is final and is a public document for purposes of public disclosure, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., General Provisions §§ 4-101 *et seq.* & § 4-333 (2014 Repl. 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 with the Board within thirty days from your receipt of this Final Order and shall be made in accordance with the aforementioned authority.

October 15, 2021
Date


Jeffrey M. Galecki, MS, LCADC, LCPC,
Board Chair
Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and
Therapists

