

Dennis Hilker, Ph.D.  
8541 Wild Game Lane  
Owings, Maryland 20736

August 26, 2015

Neal R. Morris, Ed.D., MS, CBSM, ABPP, Chair  
Maryland Board of Examiners of Psychologists  
4201 Patterson Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Re: Surrender of License to Practice Psychology  
License No. 1027

Dear Dr. Morris and Members of the Board:

Please be advised that I have decided to surrender my license to practice psychology in the State of Maryland, License Number 1027. I understand that the decision to surrender my license means that I may not provide psychological services to any individual or otherwise engage in the practice of psychology in Maryland as it is defined in the Maryland Psychologists Act (the "Act"), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 18-101 *et seq.* I also understand that should I provide mental health services in the capacity of a coach, psychotherapist, counselor, or other designation, the Board may investigate my practice to determine whether such practice constitutes the unauthorized practice of psychology. In other words, I understand that the surrender of my license means that I am in the same position as an unlicensed individual as of the effective date of this Letter of Surrender. I understand that this Letter of Surrender shall become effective immediately upon the date of acceptance by the Maryland Board of Examiners of Psychologists (the "Board").

I understand that this Letter of Surrender is a PUBLIC document and upon the Board's acceptance and execution, becomes a FINAL ORDER of the Board.

My decision to surrender my license to practice psychology in Maryland has been prompted by an investigation of my license by the Board and by my desire to retire from the profession of psychology. In lieu of proceeding with disciplinary action by the Board, I have decided to surrender my license to practice psychology in Maryland.

I acknowledge that the Board initiated an investigation into this matter following a complaint filed with the Board on July 7, 2014. The Board's investigation into my misconduct could have resulted in charges under the Act for failure to meet the standards of practice and acting unprofessionally in my performance of an evaluation for my client.

Specifically, the Board could have charged me with the following violations under § 18-313 of the Act:

(7) Violates the code of ethics adopted by the Board under § 18-311 of this subtitle;

(17) Commits an act of unprofessional conduct in the practice of psychology; [or]

(20) Does an act that is inconsistent with generally accepted professional standards in the practice of psychology.

The Board could have further charged me with violating the following standards set forth in the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct promulgated by the Board, Code of Maryland Regulations, Title 10, Subtitle 36, Chapter 5:

.03 Responsibilities and Requirements.

A. In General.

(1) A psychologist shall:

(a) Be fully responsible for the psychologist's professional decisions and professional actions . . . .

.05 Representation of Services and Fees.

B. Informed Consent. When conducting research or providing assessment, psychotherapy, counseling, or consulting with an individual or organization in person or by electronic transmission of other forms of communication, a psychologist shall:

(1) In general:

(a) Obtain informed consent using appropriate language understandable to the client . . . .

C. Financial Arrangements and Fees. A psychologist shall:

(1) Make advance financial arrangements that are clearly understood by the client . . . .

.06 Psychological Assessment.

A. A psychologist shall:

(2) Administer psychological tests in keeping with accepted standards of practice . . . .

.08 Confidentiality and Client Records.

A. A psychologist shall:

(1) Maintain confidentiality regarding information obtained from a client in the course of the psychologist's work; [and]

(4) Release mental health records or other confidential information only as permitted or required by law . . . .

I wish to make it clear that I have voluntarily, knowingly, and freely chosen to submit this Letter of Surrender to avoid prosecution under the Act and to resolve this matter. I acknowledge that if the Board were to issue charges against me, the Office of the Attorney General could prove by a preponderance of the evidence at an administrative hearing that I violated the Act as set forth above.

I understand that by executing this Letter of Surrender, I am waiving any right to contest any charges that could have issued from the Board's investigative findings 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 to all other substantive and procedural protections provided by law, including the right to appeal.

I understand that the Board will advise the National Practitioner Data Bank of this Letter of Surrender, and in response to any inquiry, will advise that I have surrendered my license in lieu of disciplinary action under the Act. I understand that this Letter of Surrender will be posted on the Board's website along with all other formal disciplinary actions. I understand that, in the event that I apply for licensure in any form in any other state or jurisdiction, this Letter of Surrender, and all underlying investigative documents, may be released by the Board to the same extent as a Final Order that would result from disciplinary action pursuant to Md. Code Ann., General Provisions § 4-101 *et seq.* Finally, I understand that this Letter of Surrender is considered disciplinary action by the Board.

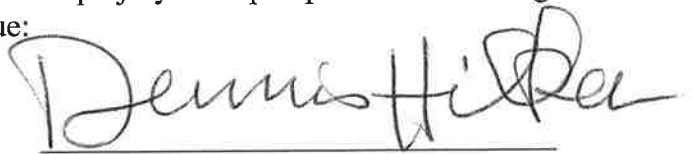
I affirm that enclosed with this Letter of Surrender is my original Maryland psychologist's license, License No. 1027, and my most recent wallet-sized renewal card.

I understand that I may not petition the Board to have my license reinstated for a minimum of three (3) years following the effective date of this Letter of Surrender. I understand that before my license may be reinstated, I must comply with the minimum licensure requirements for reinstatement, including fees and possible reexamination. In

the event that I apply for reinstatement to practice psychology, I fully understand that the Board has full and absolute discretion to grant or deny my application for reinstatement. If the Board does grant my petition for reinstatement, I understand that the Board, in its sole discretion, may set terms and conditions that shall apply to my receiving a reinstated Maryland license, including but not limited to a probationary period and conditions. I also understand that if I petition for reinstatement I bear the burden of demonstrating to the Board that I am competent to practice psychology and possess good moral character, as specified in §§ 18-302 and 18-310 of the Act.


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 and given an opportunity to consult with an attorney before signing this Letter of Surrender. I fully understand both the nature of the Board's actions and this Letter of Surrender. I acknowledge that I understand and comprehend the language, meaning, and terms and effect of this Letter of Surrender. I make this decision knowingly and voluntarily.

I solemnly affirm under the penalties of perjury and upon personal knowledge that the contents of the foregoing Letter are true:

  
Dennis Hilker, Ph.D.

STATE OF MARYLAND  
COUNTY/CITY OF Calvert :

I hereby certify that on this 26<sup>th</sup> day of Aug., 2015, before me, a Notary Public of the State of Maryland and County/City aforesaid, personally appeared Dennis Hilker, and made an oath in due form that the foregoing Letter of Surrender was his voluntary act and deed.

  
Notary Public  
My commission expires: 11/15/18

**ACCEPTANCE**

On behalf of the Maryland State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of Sept, 2015, I accept the PUBLIC SURRENDER of the license to practice psychology in the State of Maryland held by Dennis Hilker.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Neal R. Morris, Ed.D., MS, CBSM, ABPP  
Chair  
Maryland Board of Examiners  
of Psychologists