

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

Re: Surrender of License to Practice Psychology
License No. 05279 Erin Burns, PhD

Dear Dr. Morris and Members of the Board:

I respectfully advise the Maryland Board of Examiners of Psychologists ("Board") of my desire, with the approval to surrender my license to practice psychology in the State of Maryland, License Number 05279. This decision has been prompted by the investigation of my license by the Board:

I understand that the decision to surrender my license means that once accepted by the Board I will be an unlicensed individual and therefore unable to provide psychological services to any individual or engage in the practice of psychology as it is defined in the Maryland Psychologists Act (the "Act"), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 18-101 *et seq.* I also understand that if I provide any mental health services in any capacity including coaching, psychotherapist, or counseling, the Board has the authority to investigate my practice to determine whether such practice constitutes the unauthorized practice of psychology. Currently, I have no patients. I have not engaged in the provision of psychological services since March 2, 2016 and I initiated an effort to surrender my license in July 2016. My license to practice psychology expired March 31, 2017 and I have not and will not seek to renew that license.

My decision to surrender my license to practice psychology in the State of Maryland, or any other state, was prompted by an internal investigation at my previous place of employment, my desire to take responsibility for my inappropriate behavior involving a relationship with a patient. At a minimum, the Board's investigation could have resulted in several possible charges for engaging in a sexual relationship with a patient. The Board could have charged me under the Maryland Psychologists Act, Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 18-101; 18-313 including paragraphs (7); (17); (20) and COMAR title 10 § 36.05 and subparagraphs .03 and .05. I resigned from my position as a practicing psychologist with my prior employer. I have sought and received professional consultation. I have had the opportunity to consult with my counsel on matters related to the voluntary surrender of my license.

I understand that by executing this Letter of Surrender, I am waiving any right to contest any charges that could have been issued from the Board's investigative findings. I also understand that I am waiving any right to 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 this Letter of Surrender is a **public** document and becomes a FINAL ORDER of the Board upon the Board's acceptance and execution. I understand that this Letter of Surrender is considered a disciplinary action by the Board and will be posted on the Board's website. I understand that the Board will advise the National Practitioner Data Bank of this Letter of Surrender and will respond to any inquiries that may be received. 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 the Final Order that would result from disciplinary action pursuant to Md. Code Ann., General Provisions § 4-101 *et seq.*


I affirm that I will return my original wall size Maryland psychologist's license, License No. 05279 and my most recent wallet-sized renewal card to the Board after this Letter of Surrender becomes effective on the date of its receipt by the Board or June 1, 2017, whichever is earlier.

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 administration hearing that I violated the Act as set forth above.

I agree that the effect of this Letter of Surrender is permanent, and that I will never seek licensure in the State of Maryland. I further agree that the Board is not obligated to consider any application for reinstatement that I might file at a future date, and that I waive any hearing rights that I might possess regarding such application.

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:


Erin Burns, PhD 5/31/17

ACCEPTANCE

On behalf of the Maryland State Board Examiners of Psychologists, on this 2nd day of June, 2017, I accept the PUBLIC SURRENDER of license to practice psychology in the State of Maryland held by Erin Bums.

Neal R. Morris, Ed.D, MS, CBSM, ABPP
Chair, Maryland Board of Psychology