



STATE OF ARIZONA
BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EXAMINERS
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DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
Governor

TOBI ZAVALA
Executive Director

December 23, 2015

Dr. Bridget Gaertner


Dear Dr. Gaertner:

On December 3, 2015, the Board reviewed your application for licensure as a master social worker and determined that you are not eligible for licensure pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3275(6). Specifically, the Board found that you engaged in conduct that had you been licensed would have constituted grounds for disciplinary action. The Board determined that the disciplinary action invoked the following violations that were based upon the conduct referenced thereafter:

1. A.R.S § 32-3251(15)(I), any conduct, practice or condition that impairs the ability of the licensee to safely and competently practice the licensee's profession.

These violations were based on the following findings:

1. In 03/12, you voluntarily sought treatment at an intensive outpatient treatment program for your alcohol misuse.
2. In a 3/24/12 psychiatric evaluation report, the practitioner noted the following:
 - a. You indicated you were drinking about a fifth of vodka a day in the previous year.
 - b. DSM IV Diagnosis: Axis I: 303.90 alcohol dependence.
3. On 04/19/12, you were charged with 3 counts of Aggravated DUI and 2 counts of Aggravated Assault on a police officer.
4. The police officer's report indicated:
 - a. Your vehicle was weaving within its lane and encroaching into opposing lanes and the shoulder of the road prior to being pulled over.
 - b. When he instructed you to exit the vehicle, he observed 3 young children in your car ages 2, 3, and 8.
 - c. You did not want to complete any field sobriety tests.
 - d. As you were being transported to the police station, you attempted to kick the passenger window of the patrol car.
 - e. You refused to get out of the patrol car and the officer had to secure additional police assistance to remove you from the vehicle.
 - f. While officers were processing your arrest, you kicked one officer in the groin, and another in the chest.
 - g. You had to be placed in a restraint chair.
5. Blood drawn approximately one hour and fifteen minutes after you were initially pulled over yielded a blood alcohol content of .280.

6. You pled guilty to:
 - a. Count I – Aggravated Driving or Actual Physical Control while under the influence of intoxicating alcohol or drugs, a Class 6 undesignated felony; and
 - b. Count III – Resisting arrest, a Class 6 undesignated felony.
7. You were ordered to:
 - a. Serve one day in jail for Count I
 - b. Serve two days in jail for Count III
 - c. Complete two years of unsupervised probation
 - d. Pay restitution and fees
 - e. Complete an alcohol evaluation
8. On 07/16/12, you completed your alcohol screening which determined:
 - a. You were in partial remission.
 - b. You needed to complete 16 hours of DUI education.
9. On 9/29/12, you completed the 16 hours of recommended DUI education.
10. On 1/29/14, you were released from probation for completing the requirements.
11. Following 10 weeks of the intensive outpatient treatment program, you participated in a continuing care program sporadically for approximately a year.
12. You were discharged on 06/05/13 and referred to 12 step meetings and recommended to maintain contact with your new support system.
13. In regard to your relapse prevention efforts, you reported you currently:
 - a. Read recovery and health-promoting literature
 - b. Exercise
 - c. Spend with friends and family
 - d. Attend AA every couple of months by listening to podcasts
 - e. Do not have a sponsor
14. Although the Board recognizes your efforts to maintain sobriety, the Board expressed concern that you have not demonstrated a well-structured and supported relapse prevention and recovery program.

Per A.R.S. §41.1092.03.B, you may request a Formal Hearing by notifying the agency in writing within thirty-five (35) days from the date of this letter. If you do request a Formal Hearing, you also have the right, pursuant to A.R.S. §41-1092.06, to request a settlement conference. If you do not request a Formal Hearing by the close of business on January 27, 2016, your file will be closed without further recourse to appeal and the licensure denial will be reported to the federal data banks that record this information. If you desire licensure at a later date, you must submit a new application and fee.

PLEASE BE FURTHER ADVISED that, pursuant to the Board's new licensure statute, as of July 1, 2004, only persons holding licenses to practice social work may do so unless they are exempt from licensure pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3271.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at (602) 542-1617.

Sincerely,



Tobi Zavala
Executive Director