

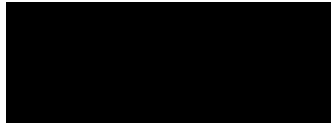


STATE OF ARIZONA
BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EXAMINERS
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DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
Governor

TOBI ZAVALA
Executive Director

February 15, 2022



Dear Ms. Edmondson:

On February 11th 2022, the Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners (“Board”) reviewed your application for licensure as a licensed professional counselor and determined that you are not eligible for licensure pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3275(A)(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(16)(l), engaging in any conduct, practice or condition that impairs the ability of the licensee to safely and competently practice the licensee's profession.
2. A.R.S § 32-3251(16)(v), engaging in any sexual conduct between a licensee and a client or former client.
3. A.R.S § 32-3251(16)(y), engaging in a dual relationship with a client that could impair the licensee's objectivity or professional judgment or create a risk of harm to the client. For the purposes of this subdivision, "dual relationship" means a licensee simultaneously engages in both a professional and nonprofessional relationship with a client that is avoidable and not incidental.

These violations were based on the following findings:

1. On 11/19/21, Applicant submitted her LPC application with the Board indicating she had a previous complaint and disciplinary action against her professional license in Tennessee.
2. Within her LPC application, Applicant submitted a 09/08/20 Consent Order indicating the following:
 - a. Stipulated grounds for Discipline:
 - According to ACA code of ethics, Applicant violated Professional ethics.
 - According to ACA code of ethics, Applicant failed to manage and maintain boundaries and professional Relationships.
 - b. Applicant’s license suspended until completion of Boundaries course.
3. Transcripts of the mediation agreement for the Consent order indicated that it was established that Applicant and Client had a sexual relationship between 12/19 and 01/20

while Client was an active client, along with a settlement agreement for Licensee to pay Client's husband ("Husband") a sum of \$50,000.

4. From 11/18 – 01/20, Applicant provided services to Client after Client was referred for Individual Counseling by Client and Husband's Marriage and Family Counselor.
5. Between 10/19 and 10/20, Applicant and Client exchanged electronic messages that included the following:
 - a. Over 200 pages of text message screen captures which included some highly inappropriate messages.
 - b. Four (4) inappropriate pictures.
 - c. Evidence of at least two (2) inappropriate encounters outside of counseling sessions.
6. Additionally, during a 12/17/21 phone conversation with Board staff, Applicant acknowledged to Board staff that she had "sexual encounter" with Client.
7. Applicant had a sexual relationship with a client.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 41.1092.03 (B), you may request a formal hearing by notifying the Board, in writing, within 35 days from the date of this letter. The hearing will be held within 60 days after the Board receives your request. (A.R.S. § 41-1092.05)(A)) At the hearing, you will have the burden of proof to demonstrate that you are qualified for licensure regarding the matters set forth above. The Office of the Attorney General will represent the State of Arizona at the hearing. In addition, if you request a hearing, you have the right to request a settlement conference. (A.R.S. § 41-1092.06) Please note that if you do not request a hearing by the close of business on **March 22, 2022**, your file will be closed without recourse to appeal. If you desire licensure in the future you will be required to submit a new application and fee. Please be further advised that pursuant to the Board's licensure statutes only persons holding licenses to practice behavioral health may do so unless they are exempt from licensure pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3271.

Notice to Licensure Applicant:

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-1093.01, an agency shall limit all occupational regulations to regulations that are demonstrated to be necessary to specifically fulfill a public health, safety or welfare concern. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-1093.02 and A.R.S. § 41-1093.03, you have the right to petition this agency to repeal or modify the occupational regulation or bring an action in a court of general jurisdiction to challenge the occupational regulation and to ensure compliance with A.R.S. § 41-1093.01.

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

Sincerely,



Tobi Zavala

Executive Director