



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

TOBI ZAVALA
Executive Director

March 14, 2016

Ms. Melishea Balthazor
[REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Balthazor:

On March 4, 2015, the Board reviewed your application for licensure as a baccalaureate 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(16)(v), any sexual conduct between a licensee and a client or former client.
2. A.R.S § 32-3251(16)(l), any conduct, practice or condition that impairs the ability of the licensee to safely and competently practice the licensee's profession.
3. A.R.S § 32-3251(16)(p), failing to conform to minimum practice standards as developed by the Board as it relates to: A.A.C. R4-6-205, Change of address.

These violations were based on the following findings:

1. From 07/13 -10/15, you were employed at a behavioral health agency ("Agency") as a counselor.
2. From 09/14 -09/15, you facilitated a total of 34 group counseling sessions that a male client ("Client") participated in.
3. You were involuntarily terminated from Agency in 10/15.
4. Upon your termination, Agency received information that you were in a relationship with Client.
5. You acknowledged that you engaged in a romantic relationship with Client.
6. In 01/16, you and Client became married.
7. In regard to your conduct, you maintain that entering into a romantic relationship with Client was not a problem because:
 - a. You were not licensed.
 - b. You no longer worked at Agency.
 - c. You never had a therapeutic relationship with Client.
 - d. Client had completed the program at Agency before the relationship started.
8. As an applicant for professional licensure, your inability to recognize the wrongful nature of entering a romantic relationship with a client or former client appears concerning.
9. You did not notify the Board within 30 days of your change of employment as required by Board rule.

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 April 18, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tobi Zavala", with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Tobi Zavala
Executive Director