

IN THE MATTER OF * BEFORE THE STATE
BEVERLY ANITA ALFORD-WILLIAMS * BOARD OF SOCIAL
APPLICANT * WORK EXAMINERS
* CASE NUMBER: 801

* * * * *

CONSENT ORDER

The Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners (“the Board”) charged **Beverly Anita Alford-Williams** (“the Applicant”), with violating certain provisions of the Maryland Social Workers Act (“the Act”), Md. Health Occ. Code Ann. (“H.O.”) §§ 19-101 et seq. (2000 Repl. Vol. and 2004 Supp.) Specifically, the Board charged the Applicant with violating the following:

H.O. §19-302. Qualifications of Applicants.

(a) *Requirements- In general.* - To obtain a license, an applicant shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board that the applicant:

(3) Is of good moral character.

H.O. § 19-311. Denials, reprimands, suspensions, and revocations-

Grounds.

Subject to the hearing provisions of § 19-312 of this subtitle, the Board may deny a license to any applicant, fine a licensee, reprimand any licensee, place any licensee on probation, or suspend or revoke a license if the applicant or licensee:

(8) Is convicted of or pleads guilty or nolo contendere to a felony or to a crime involving moral turpitude, whether or not any appeal or other proceeding is pending to have the conviction or plea set aside.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board finds that:

1. On or about March 9, 2004, the Board received the Applicant's application form for an associate social worker license with fee (The Applicant's application dated January 6, 2004, is attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit A**).

2. On her application for licensure, the Applicant checked "Yes" to the question "Have you pled guilty, nolo contendere [sic], or been convicted of, or received probation before judgment of any criminal act (excluding traffic violations)?"

3. A subsequent investigation by the Board revealed the following:

The Applicant's 1998 and 1999 convictions.

4. On or about October 18, 1998, the District Attorney for Douglas County, Georgia, filed a Felony Accusation in the Superior Court for Douglas County for the State of Georgia charging that the Applicant: (1) unlawfully received and retained stolen property to wit: a 1995 BMW, in violation of Ga. Code Ann. § 16-8-7;(2) unlawfully obtained a financial transaction card, to wit: Sears credit card, in violation of Ga. Code Ann § 16-9-31; and (3) committed forgery in the 1st degree, in violation of Ga. Code Ann § 16-9-1 (A copy of the Felony Accusation and the Incident Report in *State of Georgia v. Beverly Anita Alford*, Criminal Number 98CR1386E, are attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit B**).

5. On October 19, 1998, the Applicant pled guilty to all counts of the Felony Accusation as set forth above in paragraph 4. Superior Court Judge David T. Emerson sentenced the Applicant to a seven (7) year suspended sentence. The Applicant was also ordered to complete a seven (7) year probationary period and pay a fine in the

amount of twenty-three (\$23) dollars (A copy of the Sentencing and Probation Order in *State of Georgia v Beverly Anita Alford*, criminal number 98CR1386E, is attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit C**).

6. On or about August 2, 1997, the Applicant was charged with three counts of theft over three hundred dollars (\$300), in violation of Md. Ann. Code Art. 27 § 342 and two counts of forgery, in violation of Md. Ann Code Art. 27 § 44¹ (A copy of the Statement of Charges and the Statement of Probable Cause, in *State Of Maryland vs. Beverly Alford*, case numbers 898336019 and 898336020², are attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit D**).

7. On or about December 3, 1998, the Applicant pled guilty in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City to two counts of theft over \$300 in violation of Art. 27 § 342, and one count of forgery, in violation of Md. Ann Code Art. 27 § 48³ (A copy of the Docket Entries and the Commitment Order in *State of Maryland vs. Beverly Alford*, case numbers 898336019 and 898336020, are attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit E**).

8. Baltimore City Circuit Court Judge Paul E. Albert sentenced the Applicant to five (5) years imprisonment with all but five (5) months stayed. The Applicant was placed on supervised probation for five (5) years and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$11,277.08 (A copy of the Order for Probation and the Judgment of Restitution, in *State of Maryland vs. Beverly Alford* case numbers 898336019 and 898336020, are attached hereto and incorporate herein as **Exhibit F**).

¹ These provisions are now Md. Crim. Law Code Ann. § 7-104 and Md. Crim. Law Code Ann. § 8-601 respectively.

² Case numbers 9760014224 and 971001943310 are listed on the State of Maryland court documents as additional tracking numbers.

³ This provision is revised as Md. Crim. Law Code Ann. 8-611.

9. The findings of fact set forth in paragraphs 1-8 indicate that the Applicant lacked good moral character and constitute grounds for denial of the Applicant's application for licensure under H.O. § 19-302.

10. The findings of fact set forth in paragraphs 1-8 are grounds for discipline in Maryland and constitute a basis for denial of the Applicant's license under H.O. § 19-311(8).

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board finds that the Applicant is in violation of Md. Health Occ. Code Ann. § 19-302 (a) (3) and §19-311 (8).

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 16 day of September 2005, the Board, by a majority of the quorum of the Board hereby:

ORDERED that the Applicant is hereby granted approval by the Board to take the AASWB national examination at the level that she has applied and is deemed qualified by the Board; and be it further

ORDERED that the Applicant shall be placed on **PROBATION** for a period of **three (3) years**. The Applicant's probation shall begin on the date that the Applicant is granted a license to practice social work, subject to the following terms and conditions:

- a. The Applicant shall be supervised in her practice by a social work supervisor that has been pre-approved by the Board;

- b. The Board supervisor approved shall provide reports to the Board regarding the Applicant's social work practice on a bi-monthly basis during the first year of probation and quarterly for the duration of the probationary period;
- c. The Applicant's therapist shall provide quarterly reports to the Board. The reports must address mental health issues, substance abuse issues, and the overall well-being of the Applicant.
- d. While the Applicant is employed in the field of social work, the Applicant shall provide the Board with information regarding her duties and responsibilities of her employment.
- e. Prior to the termination of probation, the Applicant's Board approved supervisor and the Applicant's therapist shall provide to the Board a final report. Both reports shall address the Applicant's fitness to practice social work independently, and if they would recommend that her probation and supervision be terminated.

ORDERED that at the end of Applicant's probationary period, the Applicant may petition the Board for termination of the probationary status and reinstatement of her license without any conditions or restrictions, provided that she has fulfilled all the terms and conditions of probation set forth herein, is not in violation of this Consent Order and there are no outstanding complaints against the Applicant. If the Board determines that the terms of probation have not been successfully completed, then the Board may modify one or more condition upon which the Applicant was placed on probation, upon notice to the Applicant. However, if the Applicant fails to make any such petition, then

the probationary period status shall continue indefinitely, subject to the conditions set forth in this Order; and be it further

ORDERED that if the Applicant violates any of the terms or conditions of this Consent Order, including probationary terms or conditions as set forth herein or any state or federal law governing the practice of social work, then the Board, after a determination of violation and notice, and an opportunity for a hearing, may impose any other disciplinary sanctions it deems appropriate, including suspension or revocation, said violation of probation being proved by a preponderance of evidence; and be it further

ORDERED that prior to the termination of probation, the Administrative Prosecutor shall have the opportunity to provide a written response to the Applicant's petition or to request a Case Resolution Conference; and be it further

ORDERED that the Applicant shall be responsible for all costs incurred under this Consent Order; and be it further

ORDERED that the Applicant shall practice in accordance with state or federal laws governing the practice of social work; and be it further

ORDERED that for purposes of public disclosure and as permitted by Md. State Govt. Code Ann. § 10-617(h) (2004 Repl. Vol.), this document consists of the contents of the foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order, and that the Board may also disclose to any national reporting bank or other to whom the Board is mandated to report; and be it further

ORDERED that this Consent Order is effective as of the date that this Consent Order is signed by the Board; and be it further

ORDERED that this is a **FINAL ORDER** and, as such, is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT**
pursuant to Md. State Govt. Code Ann. §§ 10-611 et seq. (2004 Repl. Vol.).

Sept 16, 05
Date

Emanuel Mandel
Emanuel Mandel, ACSW, LCSW-C
Chairperson
State Board of Social Work Examiners

CONSENT OF BEVERLY ANITA ALFORD WILLIAMS

I, **Beverly Anita Alford Williams**, by affixing my signature hereto, acknowledge that:

1. I have consulted with my attorney, Mark B. Martin, before signing this document.

2. I am aware that I am entitled to a formal evidentiary hearing before the Board, pursuant to Md. Health Occ. Code Ann. § 19-312 (2000 Repl. Vol. and 2004 Supp.) and Md. State Govt. Code Ann. §§10-201 et seq. (2004 Repl. Vol.).

3. I acknowledge the validity of this Consent Order as if entered after a formal evidentiary hearing in 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.

4. I voluntarily enter into and consent to the foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order, provided that the Board adopts the foregoing Consent Order in its entirety. I waive any right to contest the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and I waive my right to a fully evidentiary hearing, as set forth above, and any right to appeal this Consent Order or as set forth in § 19-313 of the Act and Md. State Govt. Code Ann. §§10-201 et seq. (2004 Rep. Vol.).

5. I acknowledge that by failing to abide by the conditions set forth in this Consent Order, and, following proper procedures, I may suffer disciplinary action, which may include revocation of my license to practice social work in the State of Maryland.

6. I sign this Consent Order without reservation as my voluntary act and deed. I acknowledge that I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning, and terms of this Consent Order.

9/15/05
Date

Beverly A. Alford-Williams
Beverly Anita Alford-Williams

NOTARY

STATE OF Maryland
CITY/COUNTY OF Baltimore City

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT on this 15th day of September, 2005, before me, a Notary Public for the State of Maryland and the City/County aforesaid, personally appeared **Beverly Anita Alford-Williams**, and made oath in due form of law that the foregoing Consent Order was his voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS my hand and Notarial Seal.

Dwight L. Marshall Sr.
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 04/01/2006

