

Emily Zhang Lawrence
18930 Birdseye Dr.
Germantown, MD 20874

February 28, 2020

Paula Jilanis, Chair
Maryland State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners
4201 Patterson Avenue, Ste. 301
Baltimore, MD 21215-2299

Re: Surrender of Registration to Practice Massage Therapy
Emily Z. Lawrence
Registration Number: R02785
Case Numbers: 19-53M

Dear Ms. Jilanis and Members of the Board,

Please be advised that, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. ("Health Occ.") § 6-307, I have decided to **PERMANENTLY SURRENDER** my registration to practice massage therapy in the State of Maryland, Registration Number R02785, effective March 6, 2020. I understand that upon acceptance of this letter of surrender of my registration (including the period of time between its acceptance date and effective date), I may not practice massage therapy on any individual, with or without compensation or otherwise engage in the practice of massage therapy in the State of Maryland as it is defined in the Maryland Massage Therapy Act (the "Act"), Health Occ. §§ 6-101 *et seq.* and other applicable laws. I understand that the surrender of my registration means that I am in the same position as an unlicensed individual in the State of Maryland.

I understand that upon the Board acceptance, this Letter of Surrender is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT**, and upon the Maryland State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners' ("the Board's") acceptance, becomes a **FINAL ORDER** of the Board.

On January 27, 2020, I entered a guilty plea to operating a House of Prostitution at Rose's Spa. As a condition of my probation, I agreed to surrender my registration to practice massage therapy and agreed not to open or operate any spa or massage business in the State of Maryland.

The following are the facts admitted to as part of my plea agreement:

On February 26, 2019, the Montgomery County Police Department initiated a 5-month-long investigation after receiving a web tip complaint that Rose's Spa was being operated as a "house of prostitution." The Spa's posted hours were 10:30am to 10:00pm, seven days a week. During the course of the investigation, detectives learned that the Ms. Lawrence owned an apartment that she would use as a

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harboring place for the females that worked at the spa. Investigators were able to establish a pattern of Ms. Lawrence picking up the females in her maroon Honda Odyssey minivan from the apartment and transporting them to the spa. The females indicated that they had responded to ads for masseuses and were trained by Ms. Lawrence when they arrived in Maryland. During the course of the investigation, Detectives also interviewed several men leaving the spa who admitted to paying for and receiving illicit sex acts while inside the business. Several of those individuals identified Ms. Lawrence as the owner/manager of Rose's Spa and the individual who controlled and received the payments. Ms. Lawrence admitted to shutting down the spa for a week in April after she was tipped off by a client to the ongoing investigation. However, shortly thereafter Ms. Lawrence re-opened the spa and continued to operate it as a house of prostitution. During the investigation, \$427,477 was seized that was tied to the proceeds from the spa as Ms. Lawrence admitted that the spa was her only source of income. Pursuant to the plea, Ms. Lawrence will forfeit a total of \$377,477 to the Montgomery County Police Department.

I have agreed to surrender my registration to practice massage therapy in the State of Maryland to avoid further investigation and prosecution in this matter. I recognize that for all purposes relevant my registration that these allegations shall be treated as proven and that these allegations support a conclusion that I violated Health Occ. § 6-308(a); (2) (Fraudulently or deceptively uses a license or registration), (4) (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), and (8) (Does an act that is inconsistent with generally accepted standards in the practice of massage therapy).

I wish to make it clear that I have voluntarily, knowingly and freely chosen to submit this Letter of Surrender to avoid further prosecution of the disciplinary charges. I acknowledge that for all purposes related to massage therapy licensure and registration, the charges will be treated as if proven.

I understand that by executing this Letter of Surrender I am waiving my right to a hearing to contest the disciplinary charges. In waiving my right to contest the charges, I am also waiving the right to be represented by counsel at the hearing, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my own behalf, and all other substantive and procedural protections provided by law, including the right to appeal to circuit court.

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I acknowledge that on or before the effective date of this Letter of Surrender I shall present to the Board my Maryland massage therapy registration, including any renewal certificates and wallet-sized renewal cards.

I understand that the Board will advise the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards, the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork, the National Practitioner Data Bank, and the Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank of this Letter of Surrender. I also understand that in the event I would apply for license or licensure in any form in any other state or jurisdiction that this Letter of Surrender may be released or published by the Board to the same extent as a final order that would result from disciplinary action, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2019), and that this Letter of Surrender constitutes a disciplinary action by the Board.

I further recognize and agree that by submitting this Letter of Surrender, my registration will remain surrendered permanently.

I understand that I may not apply for reinstatement or a new Maryland license or registration. 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 of my right to be represented by an attorney of my choice throughout proceedings before the Board, including the right to consult with an attorney prior to signing this Letter of Surrender. I have knowingly and willfully waived my right to be represented by an attorney before signing this letter surrendering my registration to practice massage therapy in Maryland. I understand both the nature of the Boards' actions and this Letter of Surrender fully. 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.

Very truly yours,


Emily Z. Lawrence



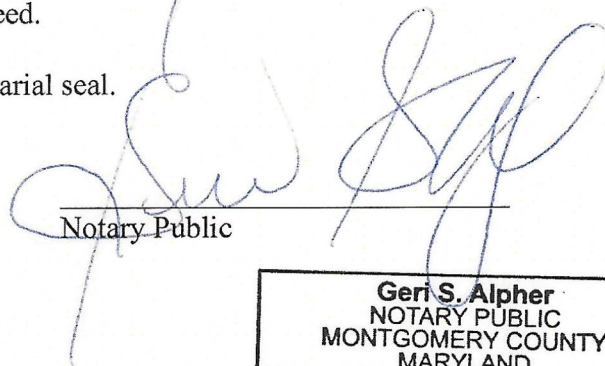
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NOTARY

STATE OF Maryland
CITY/COUNTY OF Montgomery

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 28th day of February, 2020 before me, a Notary Public of the City/County aforesaid, personally appeared **Emily Z. Lawrence**, and declared and affirmed under the penalties of perjury that the signing of this Letter of Surrender was their voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS my hand and Notarial seal.




Notary Public

My commission expires:

Geris Alpher
NOTARY PUBLIC
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
MARYLAND
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES February 9, 2023

ACCEPTANCE

On behalf of the Board of Examiners of Massage Therapists, on this 28th day of FEBRUARY, 2020, I, Sharon J. Oliver, accept **Emily Z. Lawrence's PUBLIC SURRENDER** of her registration to practice massage therapy in the State of Maryland.



Sharon J. Oliver, Executive Director
Maryland Board of Massage Therapy Examiners