



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

TOBI ZAVALA
Executive Director

June 14, 2022

Ms. Melissa Piper



Dear Ms. Piper:

On June 10, 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)(c)(i), making any oral or written misrepresentation of a fact to secure or attempt to secure the issuance or renewal of a license.

These violations were based on the following findings:

1. On 12/17/22, Applicant submitted an LPC application by endorsement.
2. The requirements for this application include having a current active license for a minimum of 3 years in the same discipline and at the same practice level.
3. Applicant provided an Oregon Board verification page that indicated she was licensed as an LPC since 11/19/19 with her application.
4. This information would have made Applicant eligible to apply for a license by endorsement.
5. The information available on Oregon Board's website, however, displayed contrary information.
6. Oregon Board staff confirmed that the information on the website was accurate, which stated Applicant was a Professional Counselor Associate since 11/19/20.
7. This information would have made Applicant ineligible for an LPC license by endorsement due to her license being an associate practice level and not meeting the three-year minimum requirement.
8. Applicant modified Oregon Board's document to indicate false information regarding her license status, and then submitted fraudulent documents to the Board with her application in order to secure the issuance of a license.

In addition, you did not establish that you meet requirements pursuant to A.R.S. 32-3274(A)(2) based on the following:

1. The person has been licensed or certified for at least three years in one or more jurisdictions in the discipline and practice level for which an application is submitted. The practice level of the jurisdictions must be substantially equivalent, as determined by the board, to the practice level for which the application is submitted.

Notice of Appealable Agency Action:

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 **July 19, 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