

**SHEILA V. WILLIAMS, RCP**

Date: May 15, 2020

Arun Bhandari, M.D., Chair  
Disciplinary Panel A  
Maryland State Board of Physicians  
4201 Patterson Avenue, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Baltimore, MD 21215-2299

Re: Permanent Surrender of License to Practice Respiratory Care  
Sheila V. Williams, RCP; License Number: L01472  
Case Number: 2220-0059A

Dear Dr. Bhandari and Members of Disciplinary Panel A:

Please be advised that, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. (“Health Occ.”) §14-5A-16, (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2019 Supp.), I have decided to **permanently SURRENDER** my license to practice respiratory care in the State of Maryland, License Number L01472, effective immediately. I understand that upon surrender of my license, I may not provide respiratory care services or treatment to any individual, with or without compensation, and cannot otherwise engage in the practice of respiratory care in the State of Maryland as it is defined in the Maryland Respiratory Care Practitioners Act (the “Act”), Health Occ. §§ 14-5A-01 *et seq.* and other applicable laws. In other words, as of the effective date of this permanent Letter of Surrender, I understand that the surrender of my license means that I am in the same position as an unlicensed individual in the State of Maryland.

I understand that this Letter of Surrender is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT**, and upon Disciplinary Panel A’s (“Panel A”) acceptance, becomes a **FINAL ORDER** of Panel A of the Maryland State Board of Physicians (the “Board”).

I acknowledge that the Board initiated an investigation of my practice and on January 13, 2020, Panel A issued disciplinary charges against me under Health Occ. § 14-5A-17(a)(1) (Fraudulently or deceptively obtains or attempts to obtain a license for the applicant, licensee, or for another); §14-5A-17(a)(3) (Is guilty of unprofessional or immoral conduct in the practice of respiratory care); §14-5A-17(a)(10) (Willfully makes or files a false report or record in the practice of respiratory care). Specifically, Panel A alleged that: (1) I provided false information on my original Maryland application for licensure as a respiratory care practitioner on March 23, 1992, by stating that I had never pled guilty to any criminal charge, or been convicted of a crime, when I pleaded guilty to murder in the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree on March 14, 1982 in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City; and (2) between 1992 and 2018, I failed to provide a true and accurate response on subsequent and numerous license renewal application questions which asked whether I had ever pled guilty to any criminal charge, or been convicted of a crime. A copy of the charges is attached as Attachment 1.

Arun Bhandari, M.D. and Members of Disciplinary Panel A

RE: Sheila V. Williams, RCP

Permanent Letter of Surrender

Page 2

I have decided to surrender my license to practice medicine in the State of Maryland to avoid further investigation and prosecution of these disciplinary charges.

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

I understand that by executing this Permanent 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.

I understand that the Board will advise the National Practitioner Data Bank of this Permanent Letter of Surrender. I also understand that in the event I would apply for licensure in any form in any other state or jurisdiction that this Permanent 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 Repl. Vol), and that this Permanent Letter of Surrender constitutes a disciplinary action by Panel A.

I further recognize and agree that by submitting this Permanent Letter of Surrender, my license in Maryland will remain permanently surrendered. In other words, I agree that I have no right to reapply and will not reapply for a license to practice respiratory care in the State of Maryland.

I acknowledge that I may not rescind this Permanent 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 Panel A, including the right to consult with an attorney prior to signing this Permanent Letter of Surrender. I have knowingly and willfully waived my right to be represented by an attorney before signing this letter surrendering my license to practice respiratory care in Maryland. I understand both the nature of Panel A's actions and this Permanent Letter of Surrender fully. I acknowledge that I understand and comprehend the language, meaning and terms and effect of this Permanent Letter of Surrender. I make this decision knowingly and voluntarily.

Very truly yours,

***Signature on File***

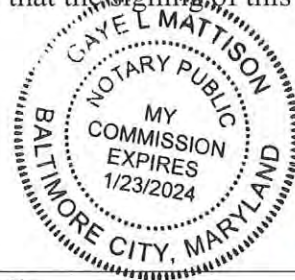
**NOTARY**

STATE OF Maryland

CITY/COUNTY OF Baltimore

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 21 day of April, 2020 before me, a Notary Public of the City/County aforesaid, personally appeared Sheila V. Williams, RCP, and declared and affirmed under the penalties of perjury that the signing of this Permanent Letter of Surrender was a voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS my hand and Notarial seal.



*Gaye Lynn Mattison*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My commission expires: 1/23/2024

**ACCEPTANCE**

On behalf of Disciplinary Panel A, on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of MAY, 2020, I, Christine A. Farrelly, accept the **PERMANENT SURRENDER** of the license of Sheila V. Williams RCP, to practice respiratory care in the State of Maryland.

***Signature on File***

Christine A. Farrelly, Executive Director  
Maryland Board of Physicians

# **Attachment 1**

IN THE MATTER OF \* BEFORE THE MARYLAND  
 SHEILA V. WILLIAMS, \* STATE BOARD OF  
 Respondent \* PHYSICIANS  
 License No.: L01472 \* Case No.: 2220-0059A

\* \* \* \* \*

**CHARGES UNDER THE MARYLAND  
 RESPIRATORY CARE PRACTITIONERS ACT**

Disciplinary Panel A ("Panel A") of the Maryland State Board of Physicians (the "Board") hereby charges SHEILA V. WILLIAMS (the "Respondent") with violations of the Maryland Respiratory Care Practitioners Act (the "Act"), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 14-5A-01 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol. and Supp. 2019).

The pertinent provisions of the Act provide the following:

**Health Occ. § 14-5A-17. Denials, reprimands, suspensions, and revocations ---- In general.**

(a) In general. ---- Subject to the hearing provisions of §14-405 of this title, a disciplinary panel, on the affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum of the disciplinary panel, may deny a license to any applicant, reprimand any licensee, place any licensee on probation, or suspend or revoke a license, if the applicant or licensee:

(1) Fraudulently or deceptively obtains or attempts to obtain a license for the applicant, licensee, or for another;

(3) Is guilty of unprofessional or immoral conduct in the practice of respiratory care;

(10) Willfully makes or files a false report or record in the practice of respiratory care;

## ALLEGATIONS OF FACT<sup>1</sup>

The Board bases its charges on the following facts that the Board has cause to believe are true:

1. The Respondent was originally licensed as a Respiratory Care Practitioner (“RCP”) in Maryland on December 23, 1992, (License No.: L01472).
2. The Respondent’s RCP license expires on May 30, 2020.
3. On March 14, 1983, the Respondent plead guilty to 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City and was sentenced to 15 years in prison, with all 15 years suspended and the Respondent was placed on probation for 5 years with conditions.
4. The Respondent’s original application for licensure as an RCP was filed on March 23, 1992.
5. Question 14 (e) on the Application asked:  
  
Have you pled guilty or nolo contendere to any criminal charge, or have you been convicted of a crime or placed on probation before judgment because of a criminal charge?
6. The Respondent answered “No” in response to Question 14 (e).
7. The Respondent submitted her most recent Renewal Application to the Board on or about May 17, 2018.
8. The 2018 Renewal Application’s “Part II. CHARACTER & FITNESS” section: Question “g” asked:

---

<sup>1</sup> The allegations set forth in this document are intended to provide the Respondent with notice of the alleged charges. They are not intended as, and do not necessarily represent, a complete description of the evidence, either documentary or testimonial, to be offered against the Respondent in connection with these charges.

Have you pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to any criminal charge, or have you been convicted of a crime or placed on probation before judgment because of a criminal charge?

9. The Respondent answered "NO" in response to the question.
10. Between December 23, 1992, and May 17, 2018, the Respondent has renewed her license numerous times without providing a true and accurate response to the application questions which ask whether the Respondent has ever plead guilty or been convicted of a criminal offense.
11. Board Staff interviewed the Respondent on July 9, 2019, regarding her failure to report a prior criminal conviction on her original RCP application and subsequent renewals.
12. During the interview the Respondent acknowledged that she failed to report her 1983 guilty plea to 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder on her original RCP application and subsequent renewal applications.
13. The Respondent claimed that she did not report the incident on the application because it occurred years before she became a respiratory therapist, and she had been advised that it would be expunged.
14. The Respondent stated that she did not think that it was her responsibility to report the 1983 criminal conviction on her application for licensure.

### Grounds for Discipline

15. The Respondent's actions as described herein, in whole or in part violated Health Occ. § 14-5A-17:

- (1) Fraudulently or deceptively obtains or attempts to obtain a license for the applicant, licensee, or for another; and/or
- (3) Is guilty of unprofessional or immoral conduct in the practice of respiratory care; and/or
- (10) Willfully makes or files a false report or record in the practice of respiratory care[.]

### NOTICE OF POSSIBLE SANCTIONS

If, after a hearing, a disciplinary panel of the Board finds that there are grounds for action under Health Occ. § 14-5A-17 (a) (1), and /or (3), and/or (10), the disciplinary panel of the Board may impose disciplinary sanctions against Respondent's license, including revocation, suspension, reprimand, probation and/or a monetary penalty.

### NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE FOR CASE RESOLUTION

A Disciplinary Committee for Case Resolution ("DCCR") conference in this matter is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 11, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.**, before Panel A at the Board's office, 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215. The nature and purpose of the DCCR is described in the attached letter to Respondent. If this matter is not resolved at the DCCR, a prehearing conference and hearing will be scheduled at the Office of Administrative Hearings 11101 Gilroy Road Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031.

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with § 14-405 of the Act and Md. Code Ann., State Gov't §§ 10-201 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol. & Supp. 2019).



BRIAN E. FROSH

Attorney General of Maryland

January 13, 2020  
Date



---

Debra A. Smith  
Assistant Attorney General  
Administrative Prosecutor  
Maryland Office of the Attorney General  
Health Occupations Prosecution  
& Litigation Division  
300 West Preston Street, Suite 201  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201  
(410) 767-1846