

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF THE
APPLICATION FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE
COUNSELOR-IN-TRAINING CERTIFICATION
OF

AARON D. LAWRENCE,

Applicant.

ORDER 0002038

ORDER GRANTING LIMITED SAC-IT CERTIFICATION

The Department of Safety and Professional Services hereby accepts the stipulation entered into by the applicant and makes the following findings and order, based upon the information of record:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Aaron D. Lawrence, the applicant, whose date of birth is August 21, 1964, submitted an application for a substance abuse counselor-in-training certificate (SAC-IT), dated March 20, 2012.

2. The applicant resides in Milwaukee and his current mailing address is c/o Transformation Services, Inc., 835 N. 23rd Street, Suite #212, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233.

3. In his application for the SAC-IT certificate, the applicant disclosed that he has a felony criminal conviction record and submitted form #2252 with his application.

4. The applicant's felony conviction for Strong Arm Robbery occurred in 2006. The applicant served his prison sentence resulting from the felony conviction and was discharged on April 26, 2011. The applicant is on probation until November 25, 2015.

5. In addition to the felony conviction, the applicant has a lengthy history of misdemeanor offenses primarily related to distribution and possession of controlled substances and theft. The applicant's criminal history began in the early 1980s.

6. After his parole from prison, the applicant completed 100 hours of specialized education in the substance abuse counseling, case management, education and professional responsibility.

7. The circumstances of the applicant's criminal convictions are substantially related to the duties and responsibilities of the occupation or licensed activity performed by a SAC-IT, therefore, the applicant's certificate shall be subject to limitations and conditions intended to ensure that his practice will be consistent with the protection of the health, safety or welfare of the public.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT ORDERED that a limited certification shall be GRANTED to the applicant, AARON D. LAWRENCE, to practice as a substance abuse counselor-in-training (SAC-IT) in the state of Wisconsin. The granting of the certification shall be contingent upon the applicant's compliance with the following requirements:

1. The applicant shall arrange for his supervision by an Independent Certified Substance Abuse Counselor, pre-approved by the Department, who shall submit quarterly work reports to the Department confirming that the applicant is compliance with the regulations governing the SAC-IT credential and that the applicant's work performance as SAC-IT is deemed satisfactory.
2. The applicant further agrees that he shall provide a copy of this order to the approved supervisor and shall report, or cause his supervisor to report, any non-compliance with this order or with rules governing the credential or of any arrest, charges or convictions for violations of any laws, within forty-eight (48) hours of such occurrence.
3. The applicant further agrees that he shall immediately report, or cause his approved supervisor to report, any use or abuse of alcohol or drugs which impairs the ability of the applicant to appropriately carry out his professional duties or is a threat to the safety of patients or the public.
4. The applicant further agrees that he shall provide a copy of this order to the Department of Corrections probation agent and shall cause the agent to report any non-compliance with this order or with rules governing his probation or of any arrest, charges or convictions for violations of any laws, within forty-eight (48) hours of such occurrence. The applicant further agrees to cause his agent to submit an annual report to the Department Monitor confirming whether the applicant has been in satisfactory compliance with his probation requirements during the course of the year.
5. The Department may modify or terminate the limitations based on credible information received from the applicant or his supervisor. A petition or request for modification shall not be submitted earlier than one (1) year from the date of this Order. Any such petition or request for modification shall be accompanied by a written explanation of the reasons and supporting documentation. Denial of a petition in whole or in part shall not be considered a denial of a license within the meaning of §227.01(3)(a), Stats., and the applicant shall not have a right to any further hearings or proceedings on the denial.
6. Any work reports, requests, petitions and other information required by this Order to be submitted to the Department of Safety and Professional Services shall be mailed, e-mailed, faxed or delivered to:

Department Monitor
Department of Safety and Professional Services
1400 East Washington Ave., P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935
Fax: (608) 266-2264, Telephone: (608) 267-3817
department.monitor@dps.state.wi.us

7. The applicant's limited certification shall be subject to summary suspension for violation of the terms of the order. If the Department determines that there is good cause for summarily suspending the applicant's license, the summary suspension shall become effective upon:
- (a) Mailing to the applicant's last-known address provided to the Department of Regulation and Licensing pursuant to § 440.11, Stats., or
 - (b) Actual notice to the applicant or her attorney.
 - (c) The applicant may request a hearing on the imposition of the summary suspension, and such hearing shall be held using the procedures set forth in ch. RL 2, Wis. Adm. Code. The hearing shall be held in a timely manner with the evidentiary portion of the hearing being completed within sixty (60) days of receipt of the applicant's request, unless otherwise waived by the applicant. The request of a hearing does not stay the suspension during the pendency of the hearing process.
 - (d) After a hearing, or in lieu of a hearing, the Department or its designee may reinstate the credential, provided there is sufficient evidence that the applicant is in compliance with the Order and that continued suspension is not required to protect the health, welfare or safety of the public. The decision whether to reinstate the credential shall be wholly in the discretion of the Department or its designee. In addition to a summary suspension, the violation of any term of this Order may be the basis for a separate disciplinary action under § 441.07, Stats.
8. The limitations imposed hereunder shall remain in effect until November 11, 2012, or until the applicant has completed his probation term, whichever is earlier.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, this 13th day of September, 2012.



Michael Berndt

Department of Safety and Professional Services