

NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA
LOCKSMITH LICENSING BOARD
BOARD CASE NO. EC-23-178

In the matter of:

Maor Hinga,

Respondent.

)
)
)
)
)

CONSENT ORDER

THIS CAUSE, coming before the North Carolina Locksmith Licensing Board (hereinafter the "Board"), with a quorum present, the Board and Respondent stipulate and agree to entry of the following Consent Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On or about December 29, 2023, Maor Hinga (hereinafter "Respondent") applied to the North Carolina Locksmith Licensing Board (the "Board") for a Locksmith Apprentice License.
2. Prior to submitting his application for licensure as an apprentice locksmith to the Board on December 29, 2023, Respondent engaged in the unlicensed practice of locksmith services. Specifically, on October 18, 2023, Respondent provided locksmith services to Leroy Wilson Everhart, Private Investigator License No. 847, at the Comfort Inn located at 1001 Wake Towne Drive, Raleigh, North Carolina 27609 by identifying key fobs to replace motor vehicle keys, presenting said key fobs to Mr. Everhart, and attempting to sell said key fobs to Mr. Everhart.
3. On or about December 21, 2023, the Board filed a Complaint and Motion for Permanent Injunctive Relief with Wake County Superior Court against Maor Hinga (Case No. 23CV036891-910), requesting that the Court issue an order to permanently enjoin Respondent from the unauthorized practice of locksmith services in North Carolina unless and until such time that Respondent is properly licensed by the Board.
4. On or about December 29, 2023, Respondent was served by Wake County Sheriff with the Board's Complaint and Motion for Permanent Injunctive Relief.
5. Contemporaneously with this Consent Order, Respondent is entering into a Consent Judgment, whereby Respondent consents to the finding that he engaged in the unlicensed practice of locksmith services as set forth above and to the entry of a judicial order prohibiting his future unlicensed practice of locksmith services.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Respondent is subject to Chapter 74F of the North Carolina General Statutes and Title 21, Chapter 29 of the North Carolina Administrative Code.
2. Respondent is subject to jurisdiction before the Board.
3. The Board is authorized under Article 3A, Chapter 150B of the North Carolina General Statutes to hear this matter.
4. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 74F-7.1(a), an applicant may receive an apprentice designation if the applicant meets all of the following requirements: (i) is of good moral and ethical character, as evidenced in part by a criminal history record check; (ii) is at least 18 years of age; and (iii) pays the statutorily required fee.
5. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 74F-7.1(b), an apprentice may practice as an apprentice locksmith under the supervision of a licensed locksmith.
6. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 74F-7.1(c), an apprentice may have the apprentice designation for no longer than three years. On or before the three-year period expires, the apprentice shall take the locksmith licensure examination administered by the Board. If the apprentice fails to take the examination within the three-year period or fails the examination and does not retake the examination on or before the three-year period expires, the apprentice shall not receive licensure and shall not be granted another apprenticeship.
7. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 74F-15(a), the Board may deny an application for license or apprenticeship designation if the applicant has willfully violated any of the provisions of Chapter 74F of the North Carolina General Statutes (the “Locksmith Licensing Act.”)
8. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 74F-3(a), no person shall perform or offer to perform locksmith services in North Carolina unless the person has been licensed under the provisions of the Locksmith Licensing Act.
9. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 74F-15(b), the Board may assess the costs of disciplinary action, including attorneys’ fees, against an applicant or licensee found to be in violation of the Locksmith Licensing Act.

BASED upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and in lieu of further proceedings, Respondent wishes to resolve this matter by consent and agree that Board staff and counsel may discuss this Consent Order with the Board *ex parte* whether or not the Board accepts this Consent Order as written;

Whereas Respondent acknowledges that he has read this entire document and understands it;

Whereas Respondent acknowledges that he enters into this Consent Order freely and voluntarily;

Whereas Respondent acknowledges that he has had full and adequate opportunity to confer with legal counsel in connection with this matter;

Whereas Respondent understands that this Consent Order must be presented to the Board for approval and that Respondent hereby waives any argument that any Board members considering this Consent Order are disqualified from participating in a hearing of this matter; and

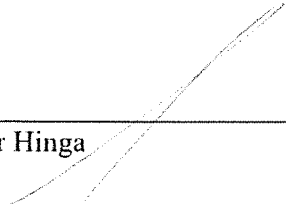
Whereas the Board has determined that the public interest is served by resolving this matter as set forth below.

THEREFORE, with the consent of Respondent, it is ORDERED that:


1. Respondent's application for a locksmith apprentice license is granted upon the Board's receipt of the Two Hundred Dollar (\$200.00) apprentice license application fee; provided, however, that such license shall be placed on a three-year suspension, to be stayed on the following terms and conditions:
 - a. While licensed as an apprentice locksmith, Respondent shall inform the Board in writing within five (5) days of being charged with, or convicted of, a crime. The stay of suspension on Respondent's locksmith apprentice license shall be automatically lifted upon Respondent being charged with, or convicted of, a crime.
 - b. While licensed as an apprentice locksmith, Respondent will comply with all statutes and rules governing the practice of locksmith services. Upon the Board's receipt of a consumer complaint alleging a violation by Respondent of statutes or rules governed by the Board, the Board may, in its sole discretion, lift the stay of suspension on Respondent's locksmith apprentice license while the allegations of the complaint are investigated and adjudicated.
 - c. Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Consent Order, Respondent shall reimburse the Board in the amount of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00) for attorney's fees and costs expended to seek an injunction against Respondent's unlicensed practice of locksmith services. The stay of suspension on Respondent's locksmith apprentice license shall be automatically lifted upon Respondent's failure to reimburse the Board in accordance with this Paragraph 1(c).

2. The Board shall retain jurisdiction under Article 3A, Chapter 150B for all administrative hearings held in connection with or pursuant to this Consent Order. If the Board receives evidence that Respondent has violated any term of this Consent Order or any other law or rule enforced by the Board, the Board shall schedule a show cause hearing for a determination of the violations. If the Board determines that a violation has occurred, the Board may impose such disciplinary action as it determines is appropriate and is authorized by law.
3. This Consent Order shall take effect immediately upon its execution by the Board and Respondent and reflect the entire agreement between Respondent and the Board, there being no agreement of any kind, verbal or otherwise, which varies, alters, or modifies this Consent Order.
4. No modification or waiver of any provision of this Consent Order shall be effective unless it is in writing, adopted and approved by the Board, and signed by the parties affected.
5. Both the Board and Respondent participated in the drafting of this Consent Order. Any ambiguities herein shall not be construed against either party in any future civil or administrative proceeding.
6. Respondent hereby waives any requirement under any law or rule that this Consent Order be served upon him.
7. Upon its execution by the Board and Respondent, this Consent Order shall become a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the North Carolina General Statutes and shall be subject to public inspection and dissemination pursuant to the provisions thereof.

CONSENTED TO:


_____ Date: 1/3/2024
Maor Hinga

By Order of the North Carolina Locksmith Licensing Board, this the 3 day of
January, 2024.

By: 

Larry Mares,
Board Chair