

June 18, 2025

Dr. Bobby Tinner, PhD, LCSW, CCTP Florida License #: SW22343, Expires 3/31/2027 Empowering 2 Change Behavioral Services 5002 S. Sandestin Blvd, #6625 Miramar Beach, FL 32550 drbobby@empowering2change.com

### Via Tracking-Enabled Email

RE: Cease and Desist – Deceptive ESA Letter Issuance; Potential HIPAA Violations, UPL, and FDUTPA Breach

Dr. Tinner,

This letter constitutes a formal cease and desist demand regarding your conduct in connection with the immediate issuance of an Emotional Support Animal (ESA) letter on June 18, 2025, following payment of \$99 through <a href="https://www.EasyPetsYes.com">www.EasyPetsYes.com</a>.

Within two minutes of submitting payment—and without:

- Any clinical interview,
- Any HIPAA consent or disclosure,
- Any therapeutic relationship,
- Or any legitimate mental health evaluation—

—I received a signed ESA letter from you asserting I "meet the criteria for a mental health disorder," qualify as disabled under the ADA, FHA, and Rehabilitation Act, and require an ESA as a prescribed accommodation. The letter further includes legal directives to housing providers concerning federal obligations—language that may exceed the scope of clinical licensure.

At 4:49 p.m. on June 18, you wrote: "A consultation is not required for Floridians but if need can be provided."

Timothy "Chaz" Stevens
980 N. Federal Highway, Ste 110
Boca Raton, FL 33432
chaz.stevens@revolt.training
954-901-0971



These actions may likely violate multiple Florida statutes, federal privacy regulations, and professional ethics obligations.

### Potential Violations Include:

- Fla. Stat. §491.009 Practicing below minimum professional standards; deceptive and unethical conduct.
- Fla. Stat. §454.23 Potential unauthorized practice of law (UPL) via legal assertions not permitted under clinical licensure.
- 45 CFR §164.508 (HIPAA) Failure to obtain valid written authorization before creating or disclosing Protected Health Information (PHI).
- Fla. Stat. §501.201 et seq. Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act (FDUTPA); commercial practices that mislead consumers through the unlawful sale of ESA letters without clinical basis.

(Attached: ESA letter issued to us.)

### Additional Concerns:

Upon information and belief, your domain (EasyPetsYes.com) may not be hosted on a HIPAA-compliant server, potentially violating the Security Rule regarding the secure storage and transmission of PHI at rest and in transit.

In electronic correspondence dated June 17, 2025, you stated:

- "Only one 15 minute session is required to get the ESA letter." (8:33 p.m.)
- "You get the ESA letter immediately after payment via email." (10:20 p.m.)

These statements suggest a business model inconsistent with lawful mental health service delivery.

Further, based on available evidence, you may be providing ESA letters to California residents without complying with AB 468, which mandates:

- A minimum 30-day provider-client relationship,
- At least two sessions,
- A valid clinical evaluation,
- And specific written disclosures.



(Attached: California license information you provided.)

Demands:

You are hereby directed to immediately:

- 1. Cease and desist from issuing ESA letters to Florida residents without full clinical evaluation, establishment of personal knowledge, HIPAA-compliant documentation, and adherence to legal and professional standards.
- 2. Cease and desist from issuing ESA letters to California residents unless fully compliant with AB 468, including the 30-day rule, two-session requirement, and required disclosures.
- 3. Destroy all documents and PHI associated with my transaction and provide written confirmation of destruction within five (5) calendar days.
- 4. Refund the full payment of \$99 immediately.
- 5. Disclose in writing your ownership or operational affiliation with EasyPetsYes.com within five (5) calendar days.

Notice of Potential Action:

We reserve the right to pursue one or more of the following:

- File complaints with the Florida Department of Health, California Board of Behavioral Sciences, HHS Office for Civil Rights, FTC, and Florida Bar.
- Initiate a civil claim under FDUTPA.
- Publicize this matter in the press.
- Continue to assess and document your business practices through public sources and ongoing investigation to evaluate compliance with state and federal law, including HIPAA, AB 468, and applicable advertising regulations.

You are further instructed to preserve all documents, records, intake forms, emails, text messages, and communications related to ESA services issued through EasyPetsYes.com or any affiliated brand.

No further communication should be construed as a waiver of any rights or remedies available under law.

\*



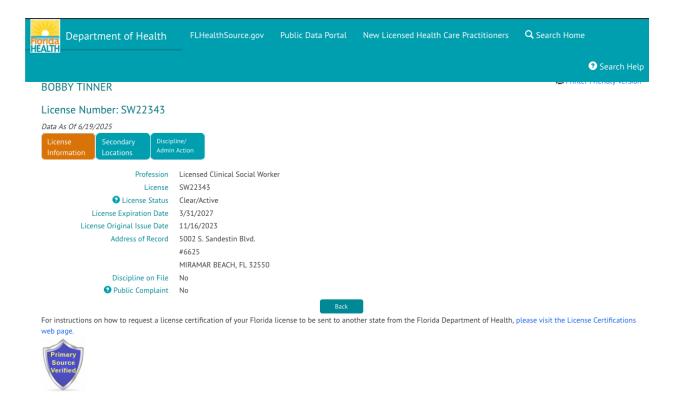
\*

Sincerely,

Timothy "Chaz" Stevens, Founder REVOLT.training

CC: Attorney Thomas H. Wright, Esq. Attorney Rigo Armas, Esq.



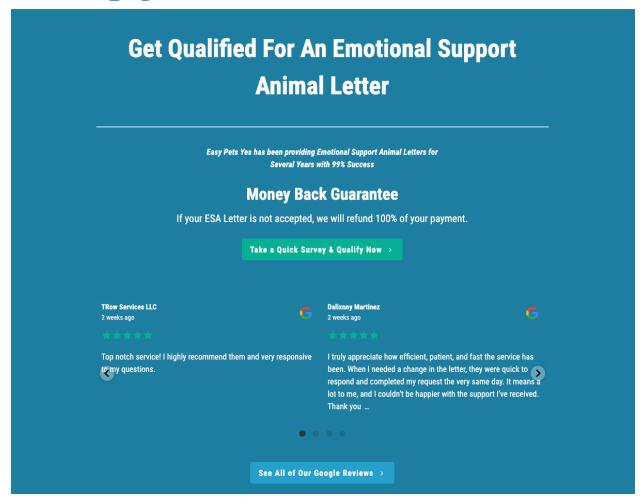


Dr. Tinner's currently licensed in the State of Florida.





Qualify Now! →



Dr. Tinner's Letter For A Fee website.





## FAQs and General Info

Do I Also Need to register my ESA? +

What Is An Emotional Support Animal?

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Who Qualifies For An Emotional Support Animal?

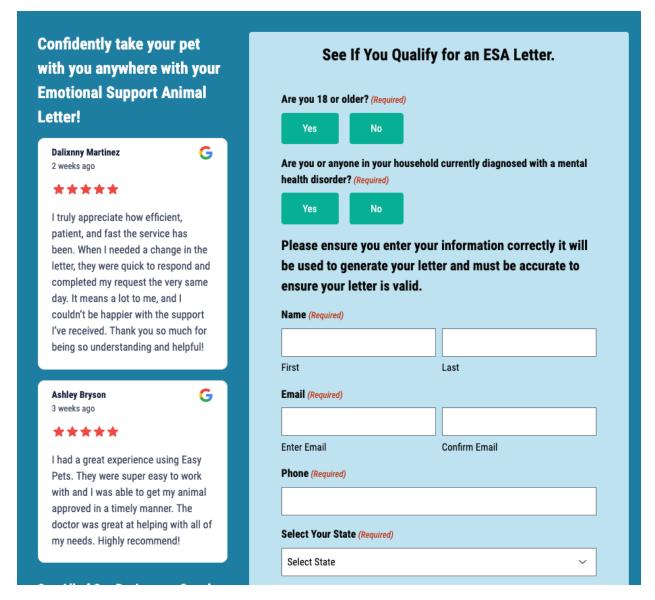
Special Info for California Residents -

If your pet is a dog, you will need to schedule an included consultation with one of our associates.

### California requires:

- A minimum 30-day provider-client relationship,
- At least two sessions,
- A valid clinical evaluation,
- And specific written disclosures.

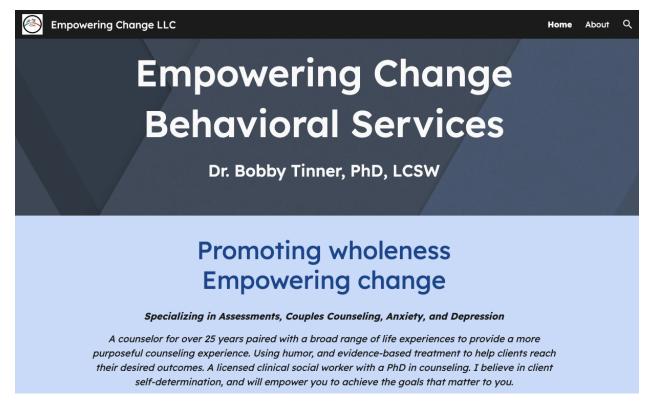




Dr. Tinner's website deceptively markets 'Confidently take your pet with you anywhere with your Emotional Support Animal Letter!' and 'You can always have your pet by your side with your ESA Letter.'

That is incorrect, an ESA has no legal right to public access.





Dr. Tinner's PhD is from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.



### **Empowering 2 Change Behavioral Services**

Date: 06/18/2025\*

To Landlord/Property Manager/Leasing Agent/Hotel/Short-term Rental Provider,

Timothy Stevens meets the criteria for a mental health disorder. As a Licensed Mental Health Professional (LMHP), I attest this client has a mental health diagnosis that warrants the need for a prescribed Emotional Support Animal (ESA) to aid in treatment and to provide alleviation of symptoms. The ESA supports the client's daily life functions and improvement of the quality of life. The ESA is a Labrador named Scooby Doo! who supports the client's anxiety symptoms. Daily, this client struggles with disabling symptoms that debilitate their level of functioning.

A disability for purposes of fair housing laws exists when a person has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. The client carries a previously diagnosed mental health disorder and was confirmed by this LMHP via our therapeutic assessment. The diagnosis meets the definition of disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Housing Act, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The ESA supports this client by meeting specific emotional needs in the following ways and is necessary to provide tactile stimulation and grounding through physical touch, emotional comfort during periods of intense emotional episodes, calming sensation through the ESA's sounds which lessen the client's symptoms. The client also benefits from the structure and routine centered around the care of the ESA. The ESA assists the client by reducing the effects of disabling episodes leading to healthier function in daily life across settings including their housing community.

### For Emotional Support Animals, the Fair Housing Act states:

- 1. You cannot charge initial pet fees or monthly pet rent fees.
- 2. You are required to allow the ESA owner in non-pet friendly housing.
- 3. You cannot apply breed restrictions to ESAs whether pets are allowed or not.
- 4. The ESA is allowed to be with the owner with no additional Hotel/Short-term Rental fees.

\*This ESA letter is valid for one year from the date of issuance. An updated evaluation and ESA letter is required every 12 months.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Bobby Times

Dr. Bobby Tinner, PhD, LCSW, CCTP

Empowering 2 Change Behavioral Services License #SW22343 O: 804-774-7372

E: drbobby@empowering2change.com

W: empowering2change.com

# Board of Behavioral Sciences

Pursuant to Chapter 14 of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code, this license as a

Licensed Clinical Social Worker
is issued to:

## BOBBY LOUIS TINNER

to engage in the business, advertise to the public, and use the title of Licensed Clinical Social and confers upon the holder all of the rights and privileges under said Chapter, including the ri



Sacramento, California. and the Seal of the State of California this 15th day of July, 2024, at In witness thereof, the Executive Officer affix the signature hereto

Executive Officer:

License Holder:

There Chedergreen

License No. LCS W124152



### **Health Care Provider Complaint Form**

This information MUST be completed to investigate your complaint, as we correspond via U.S. mail. Incomplete forms CANNOT be processed.

Florida Statutes 456.073, Disciplinary proceeding: (1) The department, for the boards under its jurisdiction, shall cause to be investigated any complaint that is filed before it if the complaint is in writing, signed by the complainant, and legally sufficient. If an investigation of any subject is undertaken, the Department will furnish to the subject or the subject's attorney a copy of the complaint or document that resulted in the initiation of the investigation

### **Health Care Provider Information:**

**Profession** Licensed Clinical Social Worker

**License Number** SW22343

**Practitioner** 

**Bobby First Name** 

**Practitioner Last** Tinner

Name

**Practitioner Middle Name Business Name** 

**Address Line1** 5002 S. Sandestin Blvd.

**Address Line2** #6625 **Zip Code** 32550

City MIRAMAR BEACH

State

**Phone Number** 504-330-0376

Ext. Website

### **Complainant Information:**

Complaint

Source

Consumer

Dr. T. Chaz **First Name Last Name** Stevens

**Middle Name** Agency/Company Name (If

applicable)

**Address Line1** 1425 SE 14th Avenue

**Address Line2** 

Zip Code 33441

City **DEERFIELD BEACH** 

State FL

**Phone Number** (954) 901-0971

**Email Address** chazstevens@gmail.com

### **Complaint Information:**

**Incident Date** 06/18/2025

### Complaint Description

Dr. Bobby Tinner, PhD, LCSW, is operating what appears to be an Emotional Support Animal (ESA) letter mill through the website EasyPetsYes.com. On June 18, 2025, after paying \$99, I received an ESA letter from Dr. Tinner within minutes -without any clinical interview, HIPAA disclosure, therapeutic relationship, or legitimate mental health evaluation. The letter contained sweeping legal language asserting disability status under the ADA, FHA, and Rehabilitation Act -- claims that may exceed the scope of his licensure and potentially constitute unauthorized practice of law (UPL). His own email confirmed: "A consultation is not required for Floridians." Tinner's conduct likely violates Florida Statutes 491.009 (unprofessional conduct), 454.23 (UPL), and the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act. Additionally, his issuance of protected health information (PHI) without proper HIPAA protocols raises federal compliance concerns. We further suspect he is providing noncompliant ESA letters to California residents, violating AB 468's 30-day relationship and two-session requirement. The enclosed materials -- including email correspondence, the ESA letter, and supporting documentation -are provided via Dropbox for the Department's review. This matter warrants immediate investigation for potential licensure sanctions and consumer protection violations. https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/6s1nt1zsf01k3qq7oon2y/Binder-CEASE-AND-DESIST-Deceptive-ESA-Letter-Issuance-HIPAA-Violations-UPL-and-FDUTPA-Breach.pdf?rlkey=sql5vh6vprnnkza6jv5oczhq2&dl=0

### **Law Enforcement Information:**

Law

**enforcement** no

contacted

First Name

**Last Name** 

**Middle Name** 

**Date Reported** 

**Case Number** 

Agency

Nametest

### **Patient Information:**

**Relation** Self

First Name Dr. T. Chaz Last Name Stevens

Middle Name Date Of Birth

Address Line1 1425 SE 14th Avenue

**Address Line2** 

**Zip Code** 33441

City DEERFIELD BEACH

State FL

**Phone Number** (954) 901-0971

**Signature** 

**Submitter Name** TIMOTHY STEVENS

Submitter Signature TIMOTHY STEVENS

From: Portal OCR\_Portal@nih.gov

Subject: 626918 for complaint submitted to Office for Civil Rights

**Date:** June 19, 2025 at 9:03 AM **To:** chazstevens@gmail.com

### 626918

Thank you for contacting the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights (OCR). OCR enforces federal civil rights laws which prohibit discrimination in the delivery of health and human services based on race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, religion, and the exercise of conscience, and also enforces the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy, Security and Breach Notification Rules.

Please do not fax, email, or mail a copy of this complaint to us as that may delay the processing of your complaint.

If you have any additional questions or need a reasonable accommodation, please contact OCR's Customer Response Center at 1-800-368-1019, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, ET.



### Thank You

### DR. T. CHAZ STEVENS,

Thank you for contacting the Attorney General's Office regarding Dr Bobby Tinner, PhD, LCSW – operating via the website EasyPetsYescom. Our staff will process it as soon as possible and, if necessary, respond appropriately. We appreciate hearing from concerned citizens such as yourself. If you wish to keep abreast of the activities of this office, you may wish to consider a subscription to our electronic newsletter <u>Weekly Briefing</u>. Or perhaps our <u>Consumer Alerts</u>. Should you wish to subscribe to either, or both, publications, please visit our <u>subscription page</u>.

TO REPORT LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCIES, SAFETY CONCERNS, OR IF POLICE ASSISTANCE IS IMMEDIATELY NEEDED, DIAL 9-1-1 or contact local law enforcement authorities who receive and respond to calls for service 24 hours a day.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Office of Citizen Services' operators do NOT monitor emails on weekends, holidays, or after weekday business hours (M-F 8AM-5PM). Please do not rely on electronic communications to report urgent emergencies or safety concerns. Dial 911 instead.

1 of 2 6/19/25, 9:07 AM

In addition, please report known or suspected abuse/neglect/exploitation of a child or vulnerable adult to the state's Abuse Hotline at 1-800-962-2873 or online at <a href="https://reportabuse.dcf.state.fl.us">https://reportabuse.dcf.state.fl.us</a> or call 911.

Otherwise, the Office of Citizen Services will address online complaints and messages as quickly as possible.

### Florida Toll Free Numbers:

- Fraud Hotline 1-866-966-7226
- Lemon Law 1-800-321-5366

2 of 2