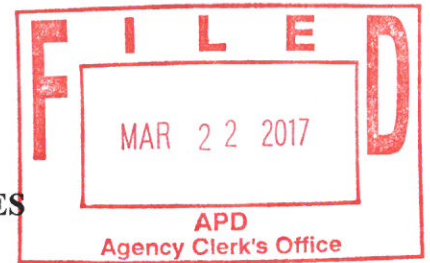


STATE OF FLORIDA
AGENCY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



SONYA NICOLE SAMUELS,

DOAH Case No. 16-6424EXE

Petitioner,

v.

AGENCY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES,

Respondent.

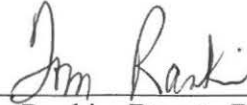
_____ /

FINAL ORDER

THIS CAUSE is before the Agency for Persons with Disabilities for consideration and final agency action concerning Petitioner's request for an exemption from disqualification from holding a position of special trust as provided in Chapter 435, Florida Statutes. Petitioner seeks an exemption from disqualification so that Petitioner can work in a position having direct contact with developmentally disabled children or adults served in programs regulated by the Department of Children and Families or the Agency for Persons with Disabilities. Following an administrative hearing at DOAH on December 20, 2016, the Administrative Law Judge issued a Recommended Order concluding that Petitioner did not demonstrate sufficient rehabilitation such that she should be considered for exemption. Neither party filed exceptions to the Recommended Order. There being no basis to reject the findings of fact and conclusions of law of the Administrative Law Judge, the Recommended Order is approved and adopted.

Being fully advised in the premises, Petitioner's request for an exemption from disqualification from holding a position of special trust in hereby DENIED.

DONE AND ORDERED in Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida, this 21st day of March,
2017.



Tom Rankin, Deputy Director of Operations
Agency for Persons with Disabilities

RIGHT TO APPEAL

A party who is adversely affected by this final order is entitled to judicial review. To initiate judicial review, the party seeking it must file one copy of a "Notice of Appeal" with the Agency Clerk. The party seeking judicial review must also file another copy of the "Notice of Appeal," accompanied by the filing fee required by law, with the First District Court of Appeal in Tallahassee, Florida, or with the District Court of Appeal in the district where the party resides. Review proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure. The Notices must be filed within thirty (30) days of the rendition of this final order.¹

¹ The date of the "rendition" of this Final Order is the date that is stamped on its first page. The Notices of Appeal must be received on or before the thirtieth day after that date.

Copies furnished to:

Sonya Nicole Samuels
496 Goss Avenue
Leesburg, Florida 34748


APD Central Region

Claudia Llado, Agency Clerk
Division of Administrative Hearings
The DeSoto Building
1230 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3060
(filed via e-ALJ)

Tracie Hardin, Esq.
Senior Attorney
Agency for Persons with Disabilities
4030 Esplanade Way, Suite 380
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0950
tracie.hardin@apdcares.org

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of this Final Order was provided by U.S. Mail or electronic mail to the above-named individuals at the listed addresses this 22nd day of March, 2017.


Michele A. Lucas, Esq., Agency Clerk
Agency for Persons with Disabilities
4030 Esplanade Way, Suite 335
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0950