

BEFORE THE WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF:

Linda Ward
PO Box 734
Gilbert, WV 25621

CONSENT AGREEMENT

Comes now Linda Ward and the West Virginia Board of Social Work Examiners (hereinafter "the board"), for the purpose of agreeing to disciplinary action which shall be taken against Linda Ward by the board pursuant to West Virginia Code §30-30-7.(a)(9) and the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics section 4.04. As reflected in this document, the parties have reached an agreement concerning the proper disposition of this matter, and the board approving such agreement, does hereby find and **ORDER** as follows:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The board is a State entity created by West Virginia Code §30-30-1 et seq., and is empowered to regulate the practice of social work.
2. Linda Ward currently holds license number TL03029897 as a temporary licensed social worker in the State of West Virginia.
3. Linda Ward previously held license number TL04019458 as a temporary licensed social worker in the State of West Virginia.

4. On two separate occasions, under her previous license, Linda Ward submitted signed, sworn documents to the board that contained false information.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. West Virginia Code §30-30-7(a)(9) states that “the board may refuse to issue or renew a license, or may suspend or revoke an existing license“..{if a social worker} has been found guilty by the board of unprofessional conduct in accordance with the rules and regulations promulgated by the board.
2. West Virginia Code §30-30-7-(a)(9) defines unethical conduct to be when {a social worker has} “knowingly made a false statement on any form or written statement submitted to the board.” False swearing is considered a violation of the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics, section 4.04-Dishonesty, Fraud, and Deception.
3. As indicated in the Findings of Fact, Linda Ward has violated professional and ethical standards and provisions of the law.

CONSENT

Linda Ward, by affixing her signature hereon, **agrees** to the following:

1. She acknowledges that she is aware of her option to pursue this matter through appropriate administrative and/or court channels, but intelligently, knowingly, and voluntarily waives her right to do so.
2. She consents to the entry of the following **ORDER** affecting her license to practice

social work in the State of West Virginia.

3. This Consent Agreement shall serve as a formal disciplinary action against Ms. Ward, and, as such, pursuant to NPDB Laws and Regulations, Title IV of P.L. 99-660, the Health Care Quality and Improvement Act of 1986, shall be reported to the National Health Integrity Practitioner Data Bank (HIPDB) by the Association of Social Work Boards, the designated reporting agent for the West Virginia Board of Social Work Examiners.

ORDER

1. Linda Ward agrees to earn an additional six (6) hours in professional social work ethics specific to: 1. *Integrity & Professional Responsibilities-Behavior in a trustworthy manner aware of profession's mission, values, principals and ethical standards*; 2. *Competence/increase professional knowledge, skills, and apply them in practice and adherence to licensing laws and regulations*. A temporary licensed social worker has a standard requirement of eight (8) hours in various aspects of Ethics which are added to the sanction of six (6) additional hours for a total of fourteen (14) hours of Board approved continuing social work ethics education.
2. The fourteen (14) hours of Ethics training must be completed within the current two-year licensing period.

Signature of licensee: Linda Ward

Date: 10-16-02

Signature of Board Chair: Pat M. Brown

Date: October 21, 2002

Entered into this 31st day of October, 2002.

BOARD SEAL