BEFORE THE WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF:

VIRGINIA D. LOVELY
LICENSED SOCIAL WORKER
NO. AP00939265

CONSENT AGREEMENT

TO: Virginia D. Lovely
42 Blue Ridge Avenue
Green Brook, New Jersey 08812

Comes now Virginia D. Lovely 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 Ms. Lovely by the Board pursuant to W. Va. Code § 30-30-7(a)(3). 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 W. Va. Code § 30-30-1 et seq., and is empowered to regulate the practice of social work pursuant to W. Va. Code § 30-30-7.

2. Virginia D. Lovely is a Licensed Social Worker in the State of West Virginia and possesses License No. AP00939265.
3. Sometime during April, 1998, Ms. Lovely, a licensed social worker, signed a student out of school at Webster County High School. While with this student, Ms. Lovely purchased alcohol for the student and his friend, who were both under the legal age for purchasing alcohol. Thereafter, Ms. Lovely engaged in sexual activity with the student.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. W. Va. Code § 30-30-7(a)(3) states that "[t]he board may refuse to issue or renew a license, or may suspend or revoke an existing license... [if a social worker] [h]as been grossly negligent or exhibited unprofessional or unethical conduct in the practice of social work.

2. The National Association of Social Workers ("NASW") Code of Ethics (1990) states:

The private conduct of the social worker is a personal matter to the same degree as is any other person's, except when such conduct compromises the fulfillment of professional responsibilities.

The social worker should not participate in, condone, or be associated with dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.

NASW Code of Ethics Part I paragraph A(1)(2).

Maintaining the Integrity of the Profession - The social worker should uphold and advance the values, ethics, knowledge, and mission of the profession.

NASW Code of Ethics Part V paragraph M.
3. As indicated in the Findings of Fact, Ms. Lovely, a licensed Social Worker, violated these sections when she engaged in the conduct described in Finding of Fact No. 3.

CONSENT

Virginia D. Lovely, 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.

ORDER

On the basis of the foregoing, the Board hereby ORDERS that:

1. Ms. Lovely's license to practice social work in the State of West Virginia shall be suspended for a minimum of three (3) months beginning on the date of the signing of this Consent Agreement. Reinstatement of Ms. Lovely's license, after the three (3) month suspension period is contingent upon Ms. Lovely complying with the terms of paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Order.

2. Ms. Lovely shall enter into counseling with a therapist approved by the Board. The therapist shall have credentials and/or experience in addressing substance abuse problems and issues related to personal/professional boundaries. The therapist shall address substance abuse and issues relating to personal/professional boundary
issues in the counseling sessions with Ms. Lovely. The therapist must report to the Board in writing indicating that in his/her professional opinion, Ms. Lovely is capable and competent to perform social work duties before the Board will reconsider a request for reinstatement.

3. Before Ms. Lovely's license is reinstated, Ms. Lovely shall successfully complete ten (10) hours of continuing education in the areas of boundary issues, impaired professional behavior and/or comportment as a social worker.

4. Upon the completion of the suspension period and after employment has resumed, Ms. Lovely shall be supervised by a Licensed Certified Social Worker (hereinafter "LCSW") or Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (hereinafter "LICSW") approved by the Board. The supervisor shall provide the Board with quarterly reports outlining Ms. Lovely's practice activities, comportment as a social worker, ethical conduct concerning her relationship with clients and concerning appropriate therapeutic interventions for a minimum of one (1) years. This supervision shall be at a minimum one (1) hour every two (2) weeks.

5. The parties recognize that this Consent Agreement is a public record.

6. The Board recognizes that this Agreement is a compromise of a disputed claim and is not to be construed as an admission of liability or culpability on the part of Ms. Lovely.

\[\text{Virginia D. Lovely} \quad \text{4/12/1999}\]

\[\text{VIRGINIA D. LOVELY} \quad \text{DATE}\]