

BEFORE THE WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF SOCIAL  
WORK EXAMINERS,  
Complainant,

v.

Case No: TC908-09-09

TINA L. CURRENCE,  
Licensed Social Worker  
Licensed Number: AP00941501  
Respondent.

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CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

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After due investigation of a written complaint, the West Virginia Board of Social Work Examiners (hereinafter "Board") determined that there was probable cause to believe that Tina L. Currence (hereinafter "Respondent") has exhibited unprofessional and unethical conduct in the practice of social work, in violation of the provisions of W. Va. Code § 30-30-1 *et seq.* and the Rules of the Board, 25 C.S.R. § 1 *et seq.* The Respondent was provided with written notice of the allegations against her pursuant to the rules of the Board and the laws of this State.

Now, in lieu of hearing, the parties have reached an agreement for the resolution of this case matter and the parties agree to entry of the following Order in disposition of this matter.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Board adopts the following findings in this matter:

1. That 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.

2. That the Respondent, Tina L. Currence, is a licensee of the Board, possessing License No. AP00941501, and is therefore subject to the license requirements of said Board.

3. That the Board is empowered to investigate allegations of unprofessional or unethical conduct and to suspend, restrict, revoke or refuse to issue a license to practice social work under the authority granted to it by W. Va. Code § 30-30-1 *et seq.*

4. That Respondent was, at all times material hereto, employed as a contract social worker by Family Options.

5. That in June of 2008 the Board received a Complaint from the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (hereinafter "WVDHHR") against the Respondent for bringing children on client visits, and inappropriate actions such as napping while at the client's residence along with discussing personal experiences with the client.

6. That the Respondent provided family services to WVDHHR clients as a contract employee through her employer Family Options.

7. That WVDHHR began to investigate complaints that the Respondent was not providing services as contracted to do. In January 2008, a WVDHHR worker went to a client's home when the Respondent was there providing services and found that the Respondent had brought along two children to the visit to which the Respondent admits. That the client had to provide meals to the Respondent along with the two children.

8. That upon further investigation by WVDHHR it was discovered that the Respondent would talk about her personal experiences such as her own issues with domestic abuse to her clients. That the Respondent would take naps while at the client's house and work on other case reports besides the current client's.

9. That as a result of the Respondent's actions clients were not receiving the services that had been contracted by WVDHHR.

10. That the Board conducted an investigation, during which time the Complainant, the Respondent and other relevant parties were interviewed and various documents relevant to the complaint were obtained and reviewed.

11. That the Board's assigned complaint investigator did review all the information obtained during the investigation and based upon that review, did make a recommendation to the Board for a finding of probable cause.

12. That the Board, after conducting an investigation, by vote at its September 25, 2008, meeting, made a finding of probable cause for multiple violations of the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics at 1.01, 1.07(h), and 4.05.

13. That the Respondent's actions constitute a violation of the current Code of Ethics adopted by the Board, the Board's governing practice act, and that this violation of the Code of Ethics may be grounds for disciplinary action by the Board pursuant to W. Va. Code § 30-30-7 and 25 C.S.R. § 1-4.2.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. That the Board has jurisdiction to take disciplinary action against Respondent.

2. That based upon the allegations of unprofessional or unethical conduct set out above in the *Findings of Fact* section, the Board is authorized to suspend, revoke or otherwise restrict the license of the Respondent to practice social work, pursuant to W. Va. Code § 30-30-7.

3. That the Board has adopted the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics as its Code of Ethics pursuant to 25 C.S.R. § 1-4.1 and has defined professional negligence

to include a licensed social worker's failure to comply with the Code of Ethics. Violations of this Code may be grounds for disciplinary action by the Board pursuant to 25 C.S.R. § 1-4.2.

**CONSENT OF LICENSEE**

I, Tina L. Currence, by affixing my signature hereto, acknowledge the following:

1. That I have had the opportunity to consult with counsel and execute this Consent Agreement voluntarily, freely, without compulsion or duress and mindful that it has legal consequences.

2. That no person or entity has made any promise or given any inducement whatsoever to encourage me to make this settlement other than as set forth herein.

3. That I acknowledge that I am aware that I may pursue this matter through appropriate administrative and/or court proceedings, and I am aware of my legal rights regarding this matter, but intelligently, knowingly and voluntarily waive such rights.

4. That I waive any defenses including, but not limited to, laches, statute of limitations, and estoppel, that I may have otherwise claimed as a condition of this agreement.

5. That I admit that my actions were unprofessional and unethical and a violation of the statute and rules of the Board.

The Respondent, Tina L. Currence, by affixing her signature hereon, agrees to the following:

**ORDER**

On the basis of the foregoing, the Board does hereby ORDER and DECREE that:

1. Respondent is hereby REPRIMANDED for her actions and placed on probation for a period of one year effective upon the entry date of this *Order* hereto.

2. During this period of probation the Respondent shall complete the following requirements:

a. Respondent shall be under the supervision of a licensed master level social worker that is approved by the Board for the duration of the probationary period. Quarterly reports shall be submitted by the supervisor social worker of the monthly face-to-face meetings between the supervisor and the Respondent directly to the Board. The reports shall consist of the following: date, time and place of supervision, topics discussed, observation and performance evaluations. Moreover, the Respondent shall inform her clients that her work is being supervised by a Board approved licensed master level social worker, and Respondent shall obtain the necessary release that will permit this supervising social worker to review any and all files necessary.

b. Respondent shall inform her employer that she is on probation and the terms of the probation. Should the Respondent change her employment during the probationary period, she must notify the Board and inform her new employer of her probationary status.

c. Respondent shall complete ten (10) contact hours of West Virginia Board of Social Work Examiners approved continuing education in social work ethics of boundaries and confidentiality issues during the one year probationary period. These ten (10) contact hours are in addition to the standard requirement of fifty (50) contact hours that a licensee must complete for license renewal, and shall not be obtained via any online courses.

d. Respondent shall reimburse the Board for all of the administrative and legal expenses incurred by the Board in the investigation and disposition of this case by the completion of the probationary period.

3. Should there be any violations of this agreement, or reported violations of the Board's governing statute's and rules during this one year probationary period, then the Board may automatically suspend the Respondent's license without a hearing.

4. The Board is bound by agreement and by law to report the results of all disciplinary actions, including the instant matter, for posting in the Health Integrity Practitioners Data Bank through the Association of Social Work Boards.

5. That this document is a public record as defined in W. Va. Code § 29B-1-2(4).

6. This *Consent Agreement and Order* constitutes the entire agreement between the parties.

WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF  
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

By: Rita M. Brown  
Rita Brown, Chairperson

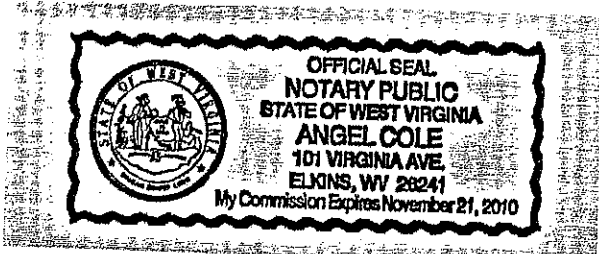
Entered: 8/27/09  
DATE

Agreed to by: Tina L. Currence  
Tina L. Currence, Respondent

5/15/09  
DATE

Sworn and subscribed before me this 15 day of May, 2009.

My Commission expires: Nov 21, 2010



Angel Cole  
Notary Public