

IN THE MATTER OF

LAUREN EMMA ANDERSON, LCSW-C

RESPONDENT

License Number: 22968

* **BEFORE THE MARYLAND**
* **STATE BOARD OF**
* **SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS**
* **Case Number: 2022-3099**
* **Case Number: 2022-3100**

* * * * *

ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION

The Maryland State Board of Social Work Examiners (the “Board”) hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDS** the license of **LAUREN EMMA ANDERSON, LCSW-C** (the “Respondent”), License Number 22968, to practice social work in the State of Maryland. The Board takes such action pursuant to its authority under Md. Code Ann., State Gov’t § 10-226(c)(2) (2021 Repl. Vol.) and Md. Code Regs. (“COMAR”) 10.42.04.07(D), concluding that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action.

INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS

The Board makes the following findings:¹

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was licensed to practice clinical social work in the State of Maryland. The Respondent initially was licensed as a licensed certified social worker-clinical (“LCSW-C”) in Maryland on or about October 3,

¹ The statements regarding the Respondent’s conduct are intended to provide the Respondent with reasonable notice of the basis of the summary suspension. They are not intended as, and do not necessarily represent a complete description of the evidence, either documentary or testimonial, that may be offered against the Respondent in connection with this matter.

2019 under license number 22968. The Respondent's license expires on October 31, 2023.

2. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent worked at a counseling center located in Baltimore County, Maryland ("Center A").² The Respondent also worked at a second counseling center located in Baltimore County, Maryland ("Center B").

a. Complaint

3. On or about January 13, 2022, the Board received an email (the "Complaint") from a Baltimore County Police Department detective (the "Complainant") that the Respondent was arrested on January 11, 2022 and charged with distribution and possession of child pornography in Case No. D-08-CR-22-005266.³

4. The Board also received a complaint from the Owner of Center A that the Respondent had not reported to work or seen her clients due to being arrested for distribution and possession of child pornography.

5. Based on the Complaints, the Board began an investigation.

b. Investigation

6. In furtherance of its investigation, the Board obtained records from the Baltimore County Police Department ("BCPD") including the Statement of Charges and Statement of Probable Cause, and conducted interviews with the Complainant, the Owner of Center A and the Respondent.

² For purposes of ensuring confidentiality, counseling centers and proper names have been omitted and replaced with generic placeholders. Upon written request, the Administrative Prosecutor will provide the information to the Respondent.

³ Charges currently are pending in the Circuit Court for Baltimore County, Case No. C-03-CR-22-000355.

7. The BCPD opened a criminal investigation of the Respondent after receiving a Cybertip from a national child advocacy organization. The Cybertip reported that the Respondent had graphic child pornography images stored in a photo app.

8. Internet provider logs and internet provider addresses obtained by the BCPD linked these images to email accounts of the Respondent. Email correspondence obtained by the BCPD showed the Respondent used a cloud storage service which frequently is utilized by persons who are engaged in the trade of child pornography. BCPD also obtained documents that the Respondent used two chat applications that frequently are used by individuals to send graphic pornographic images and videos.

9. The BCPD executed a search warrant at the residence of the Respondent in which her phone, computer and hard drives were seized. The BCPD observed several child pornography images on the Respondent's devices that were linked to her email accounts. The BCPD also observed graphic chat messages with a person who identified himself as a 16-year-old male.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing investigative findings, and pursuant to its authority under Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-226(c)(2) (2021 Repl. Vol.) and COMAR 10.42.04.07, the Board concludes as a matter of law that there is a substantial likelihood that the Respondent poses a risk of harm to the public health, safety, or welfare. In addition, pursuant to COMAR 10.42.04.07(D), the Board concludes that the public health, safety, and welfare imperatively requires the immediate suspension of the Respondent's license to practice social work in Maryland.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Investigative Findings and Conclusions of Law, it is by the Board hereby:

ORDERED that pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-226(c)(2) and COMAR 10.42.04.07, the Respondent's license to practice social work in the State of Maryland is hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDED**; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent has the opportunity to appear before the Board at a post-deprivation show cause hearing to show cause why the suspension should not be continued. The show cause hearing has been scheduled for **Friday April 8, 2022 at 3:00 PM** at the Board's offices at 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215. If the Respondent does not attend either in person or through counsel, the Board will continue the suspension of her license; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent may request an evidentiary hearing on the merits of this matter. The request must be in writing and be made **WITHIN TEN (10) DAYS** of service of this Order. If no such written request is made, the suspension will continue indefinitely. The written request should be made to:

Stanley E. Weinstein, Ph.D., LCSW-C
Executive Director
Maryland State Board of Social Work Examiners
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

with copies mailed to:

Gregory L. Lockwood, Assistant Attorney General
Health Occupations Prosecution and Litigation Division
Office of the Attorney General
300 West Preston Street, Suite 201
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
gregory.lockwood@maryland.gov

and

Rhonda Edwards, Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
300 West Preston Street, Suite 302
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent shall immediately surrender to the Board her original LCSW-C license number 22968, and any other official indicia of licensure; and it is further

ORDERED that this is an Order of the Board, and as such, is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. § 4-101 *et seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol.).



3/24/2022

Date

Karen Richards, LCSW-C
Board Chair
MD State Board of Social Work Examiners