

IN THE MATTER OF

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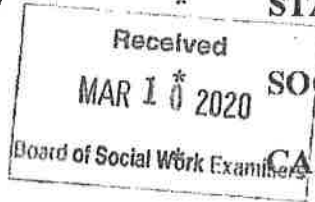
BEFORE THE MARYLAND

STEPHANIE L. BOONE, LMSW

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STATE BOARD OF

RESPONDENT



SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

LICENSE NUMBER: 20140

CASE NUMBER: 2018-2506

\* \* \* \* \*

FINAL CONSENT ORDER

The Maryland State Board of Social Work Examiners (the "Board") charged Stephanie L. Boone, LMSW, License Number: 20140, (the "Respondent"), under the Maryland Social Workers Act (the "Act"), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. ("Heath. Occ.") §§ 19-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. & 2019 Supp.). Specifically, the Board charged the Respondent with violating the following:

**Health Occ. § 19- 311. Denials, reprimands, suspensions, and revocations-Grounds.**

Subject to the hearing provisions of § 19-312 of this subtitle, the Board may deny a license to any applicant, fine a licensee, reprimand any licensee, place any licensee on probation, or suspend or revoke a license if the applicant or licensee:

- (4) Commits any act of gross negligence, incompetence, or misconduct in the practice of social work;
- (5) Engages in a course of conduct that is inconsistent with generally accepted professional standards in the practice of social work; [and]
- (6) Violates any provision of this title or regulations governing the practice of social work adopted and published by the Board[.]

The pertinent provisions of COMAR, the code of ethics, provide the following:

**COMAR 10.42.06.**

**.03 Continuing Education Requirements.**

A. The Board shall renew a license for an additional 2-year period if the social worker:

(1) Completes 40 (30 for Licensed Bachelor Social Workers) continuing education units within the renewal period, of which a minimum of:

(a) 20 (15 for Licensed Bachelor Social Workers) continuing education units shall be obtained from approved programs which are Category I;

(b) 3 of the required Category I or Category II continuing education units shall have a content area focusing on ethics and professional conduct, including boundary issues, or pertaining to the standards of practice and laws governing the profession of social work in Maryland; and

(c) For registered and Board-approved supervisors, 3 of the required Category I or Category II continuing education units shall have a content area focusing on supervision as stipulated in COMAR 10.42.08.04A(2)(c);

(2) Submits an application as set forth in COMAR 10.42.01 attesting to completion of the required continuing education units in approved programs; and

(3) Completes the required continuing education units within a 2-year period as set forth in §B of this regulation.

B. Time Frame.

(1) Renewed licenses are valid for a 2-year period from November 1 through and including October 31, during which time continuing education units may be earned.

(2) Continuing education units obtained in one renewal period may not be carried over to the next renewal period.

**.06 Reporting, Documenting, and Auditing Compliance with Continuing Education Requirements.**

- C. On request by the Board, a social worker shall provide full documentation of the continuing education units completed in accordance with the requirements of §D of this regulation.
- D. Documentation. A social worker shall provide to the Board:
  - (1) A social worker shall provide to the Board:
    - (a) An official transcript for continuing education units earned in a course taken for credit;
    - (b) A certificate of completion for approved programs;
    - (c) If a certificate of completion is not available, the following documentation, which may earn Category II continuing education units:
      - (i) Date, location, and proof of attendance of the program presented;
      - (ii) Names and credentials of the presenters;
      - (iii) Agenda, learning objectives, and topics presented; and
      - (iv) An outline of the presentation;
    - (d) A reprint of the social worker's completed publication;
    - (e) If a certificate of completion is not available for an audiovisual instructional program or a home study course, proof of completion of the program or course, such as a post-test passing score or other satisfactory proof as determined by the Board;
    - (f) Proof of presentations made; and
    - (g) Topics, dates, times, and names of participants in structured peer-case conferences and journal club activities.

## FINDINGS OF FACT

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was licensed to practice social work in the State of Maryland. The Respondent was originally licensed to practice social work in Maryland on or about July 7, 2014. The Respondent's license expired on October 31, 2018.
2. The Respondent was included in a Post Renewal Continuing Education Audit ("Audit") conducted by the Board on licenses requiring renewal by October 31, 2016. As a condition of licensure, licensed social workers are required to obtain forty (40) credit hours of Continuing Education Units ("CEUs") every two years in programs and categories approved by the Board, in accordance with Heath Occ. § 19-309(d)(3)(ii) and COMAR 10.42.06.03. The CEUs may all be in Category I but may not consist of more than twenty CEUs in Category II. A minimum of three CEU's, of the required forty CEU's shall focus on ethics and professional conduct, including boundary issues.
3. All licensees are required to sign a statement on the renewal application attesting to having completed this requirement.
4. On or about January 4, 2017, the Respondent was mailed a letter from the Association of Social Work Boards ("ASWB") on behalf of the Board stating that she was randomly chosen as a part of the Audit. The letter requested that the Respondent supply copies of training certificates that support the continuing education units that were provided on her 2014-2016 renewal application, in accordance with COMAR 10.27.06 by February 4, 2017.

5. The Respondent failed to respond to ASWB's January 4, 2017 request for documentation.
6. On or about February 8, 2017, ASWB sent a letter titled "2016 Post Renewal Audit – Second Notice" to the Respondent again requesting the documentation set forth in its January 4, 2017 letter. ASWB requested that the Respondent submit the documentation within fifteen (15) business days of the date of the letter.
7. On or about February 21, 2017, the Respondent sent an email to ASWB stating "I have moved to Virginia. I no longer need a Md license."
8. The Respondent failed to submit the documentation requested ASWB's February 8, 2018 letter.
9. On or about February 27, 2017, ASWB sent a "2016 Post Renewal Audit-Problem Notice" to the Respondent stating her explanation has been received and her audit file will be forwarded to the Board.
10. The Respondent failed to provide documentation that she satisfied the continuing education requirements for the 2016 renewal.
11. The Respondent's failure to satisfy the CEU requirements for the renewal period 2016 renewal period is a violation of Health Occ. §19-311 (4), (5), and (6); COMAR 10.43.06.03A (1)(a),(b), and (c), (2), (3) and B(1) and (2); and COMAR 10.42.06.06 C and D.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes that the Respondent violated Health Occ. §19-311 (4), (5), and (6); COMAR10.42.06.03A (1)(a)-(c), (2), and (3) and B (1) and (2) COMAR 10.42.03.06 C and D (1)(a),(b),(c),(d),(e),(f),and (g).

**ORDER**

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 3rd day of April 2020, by a majority of the appointed members of the Board, hereby:

**ORDERED** that the Respondent's license shall be **REPRIMANDED**; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the Respondent shall pay a fine in the amount of fifteen hundred thousand dollars (\$1500). The fine shall be paid within six (6) months of the date of this Consent Order; and it is further

**ORDERED** that failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the Consent Order, constitutes a violation of the Consent Order and the Board, in its discretion, after notice and an opportunity for a show cause hearing before the Board, may impose any appropriate sanction under the Act; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the Respondent shall bear all costs associated with this Consent Order; and it is further,

**ORDERED** that the Respondent shall practice social work in accordance with the Maryland Social Workers Act and all applicable laws and regulations; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the effective date of this Consent Order is the date that it is signed By the Board; and it is further

**ORDERED** that for purposes of public disclosure, the Consent Order is considered a PUBLIC DOCUMENT pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. §§ 4-101 et seq. (2018 Repl. Vol. & 2018 Supp.) and is reportable to any entity to whom the Board is obligated to report.

4/03/2020

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

 Sherryl L. Silberman LCSW-C

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Sherryl Silberman, LCSW-C,  
Board Chair  
Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners

CONSENT OF STEPHANIE L. BOONE, LMSW

I, **STEPHANIE L. BOONE, LMSW**, have decided not to be represented by an attorney. By this Consent Order and for the purpose of resolving the issues raised by the Board, I agree and accept to be bound by the foregoing Consent Order and its conditions. I waive any rights I may have to contest the Findings of Fact and the Conclusions of Law.

I acknowledge the validity of this Consent Order as if entered into after the conclusion of a formal evidentiary hearing in which I would have had the right to counsel, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my own behalf, and to all other substantive and procedural protections provided by the law. I acknowledge the legal authority and jurisdiction of the Board to initiate these proceedings and to issue and enforce this Consent Order. I affirm that I am waiving my right to appeal any adverse ruling of the Board that might have followed any such hearing. I sign this Consent Order, voluntarily and without reservation, after having an opportunity to consult with counsel, and I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning and terms of this Consent Order.

3/2/2020  
Date

Stephanie L. Boone LMSW  
Stephanie L. Boone, LMSW



STATE OF North Carolina

CITY/COUNTY OF Wake

**NOTARY**

I hereby certify that on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2020, before me, a Notary Public for the State of North Carolina and the City/County aforesaid, personally appeared Stephanie L. Boone, LMSW, License Number: 20140 and made oath in due form of law that the foregoing Consent Order was his voluntary act and the statements made herein are true and correct.

AS WITNESS my hand and Notarial Seal.

Lisa N. Koch  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 8-10-2021

