

IN THE MATTER OF  
LORRE BURGESS, LBSW  
Respondent

\* BEFORE THE  
\* MARYLAND  
\* BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK  
\* EXAMINERS

License Number: 20768

\* Case Number: 2016-2276

\* \* \* \* \*

### CONSENT ORDER

On or about June 8, 2018, the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners (the “Board”) charged Lorre Burgess, LBSW (the “Respondent”), license number 20768, pursuant to the Maryland Social Workers Act (the “Act”) codified at Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 19-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol. and 2017 Supp.).

The pertinent provisions of the Act under § 19-311 provide the following:

#### **§ 19-311. Grounds for license denials, discipline**

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;

...

(5) Engages in a course of conduct that is inconsistent with generally accepted professional standards in the practice of social work;

...

(6) Violates any provision of this title or regulations governing the practice of social work adopted and published by the Board;

...

(11) Makes or files a false report or record in the practice of social work;

...

(16) Fails to cooperate with a lawful investigation conducted by the Board[.]

On July 17, 2018, the Board and the Respondent met for a case resolution conference (CRC). Following the CRC, the parties agreed to enter into this Consent Order as a means of resolving this matter.

### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was licensed to practice social work in the State of Maryland.
2. The Respondent was originally licensed to practice social work in the State of Maryland on May 11, 2015, under license number 20768.
3. The Respondent's Maryland license is non-renewed and expired on October 31, 2017.
4. The Respondent currently holds a social work license in West Virginia under license number AP00938969.
5. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was employed as a home health social worker with Western Maryland Health System in Frostburg, Maryland.
6. On October 24, 2016, the Board received a complaint that on September 28, 2016 the Respondent had documented a therapy session with a patient that had not actually occurred.
7. Thereafter the Board conducted an investigation.

8. Upon review of records provided by the Respondent's employer, the Respondent's activity log indicated that she had visited Patient A at the patient's home on September 28, 2016.

9. However, the Respondent's employer discovered that the Respondent did not visit Patient A as noted in Patient A's medical record.

10. According to the complainant, the Respondent had attempted to visit Patient A on that day, but she had been unable to locate her residence, which is located in a remote area of Western Maryland with poor cell phone reception.

11. When initially confronted about this issue, the Respondent denied that she had falsified Patient A's medical record.

12. On October 4, 2016, the Respondent admitted her conduct and explained to her employer that she had intended to make up the appointment with Patient A on September 29, 2016 but that she ultimately failed to do so.

13. The Respondent also resigned from her position on October 4, 2016.

14. On March 2, 2018, the Board issued a subpoena for the Respondent to appear at its offices for an interview on March 16, 2018.

15. On March 7, 2018, the Respondent had a telephone conversation with Board staff indicating that she had not practiced social work in Maryland since October 2016 and was unable to make the drive to Baltimore from her residence in West Virginia for the scheduled interview.

16. The Respondent also indicated she did not plan to renew her Maryland social work license.

17. The Respondent requested an alternate way to conduct the interview.

18. In furtherance of this request, Board staff tried to arrange a meeting at a halfway point by reaching out to other State agencies for use of their facilities. Unfortunately, these efforts were unsuccessful.

19. Thereafter, the Board rescheduled the interview for March 23, 2018.

20. On March 20, 2018, the Respondent emailed the Board to confirm she would attend.

21. However, the Respondent sent another email on March 23, 2018 stating she would not attend.

22. The Respondent further stated that she did not dispute the allegation made against her and stated "I made a terrible judgment as a social worker and regret my actions."

23. The Respondent's entry of an inaccurate record stating that she had visited Patient A when she had not constitutes the filing of a false report in the practice of social work and unprofessional conduct.

24. The Respondent's failure to appear for an interview pursuant to a lawful subpoena from the Board constitutes the failure to cooperate with a lawful investigation of the Board.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes as a matter of law that there are grounds for discipline of the Respondent's license pursuant to Health Occ. § 19-313(5), (6), (11) and/or (16).

**ORDER**

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 14<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2018, by a majority of the quorum of the Board, hereby

**ORDERED** that the Respondent's license to practice social work shall be **REPRIMANDED**;

**ORDERED** that the Respondent's shall successfully complete a Board-approved, six (6) hour face to face ethics tutorial in addition to those requirements set forth in the Board's Act, Md. Code Ann., Hlth Occ. § 19-309;

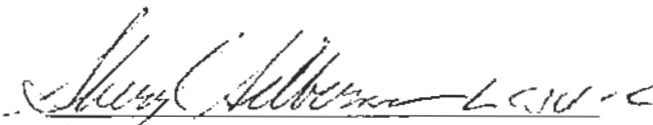
**ORDERED** that the Respondent may request reinstatement of her license upon a showing of proof of compliance with the terms and conditions of this Order and COMAR 10.42.01.17.

**ORDERED** that upon reinstatement of her license the Respondent shall be placed on **PROBATION** for a period of at least **SIX MONTHS** from the date of the Board's Order for Reinstatement;

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

**ORDERED** that this Consent Order is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** pursuant to Md. Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2014 & 2017 Supp.).

9/14/18  
Date

  
Sherryl Silberman, LCSW-C  
Board Chairperson

**CONSENT**

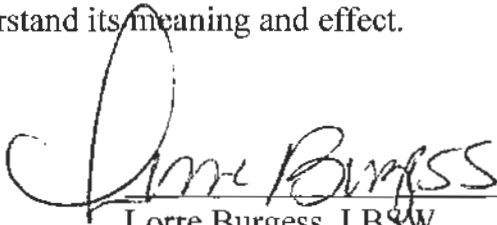
I, Lorre Burgess, LBSW, acknowledge that I have had the opportunity to seek advice of counsel in this matter. By this Consent, I agree and accept to be bound by this Consent Order and its conditions and restrictions. I waive any rights I may have had to contest the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of 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 as provided by law. I acknowledge the legal authority and the jurisdiction of the Board to initiate these proceedings and to issue and enforce this Consent Order. I also 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 after having been advised by counsel, without reservation, and I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning and terms of this Consent Order. I voluntarily sign this Order, and understand its meaning and effect.

Date

9/10/2019

  
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Lorre Burgess, LBSW

Respondent

NOTARY

STATE OF WV

CITY/COUNTY OF: Mingo

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 10 day of Sept, 2018, before me, a Notary Public of the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared Lorre Burgess, LBSW, and gave oath in due form of law that the foregoing Consent Order was her voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS, my hand and Notary Seal.

Sandra L. Riggleman  
Notary Public

My commission expires: 07/24/22

