

IN THE MATTER OF \* BEFORE THE  
WILLIE LEEVON COMER, JR., LGSW \* MARYLAND BOARD  
Respondent \* OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS  
LICENSE NUMBER: G13027 \* CASE NUMBER: 2015-2061

\* \* \* \* \*  
**FINAL ORDER**

On June 18, 2015, the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners (the "Board") issued a Notice of Intent to Revoke (the "Board's Notice") the social work license of **WILLIE LEEVON COMER, JR., LGSW (the "Respondent")**, License Number **G13027**, based on his violation of the Maryland Social Workers Act (the "Act") codified at Md. Health Occ. Code Ann. (H.O.) §§ 19-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol.) and Code Md. Regs. ("COMAR") tit. 10, § 42.03.

The Board found that the Respondent violated the following provisions of H.O. § 19-311:

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

The Board further found that the Respondent violated the following provisions of COMAR:

The Board further found that the Respondent violated the following provisions of COMAR:

**10.42.03.03 Responsibilities to Clients.**

B. The licensee may not: (3) Exploit a relationship with a client for personal advantage or satisfaction;

**10.42.03.05 Relationships.**

A. The licensee may not enter into a dual relationship with a client or an individual with whom the client has a close personal relationship.

C. The licensee may not engage in sexual misconduct with either current or former clients.

The Board notified the Respondent that this Final Order would be executed thirty (30) days from the Respondent's receipt of the Board's Notice, unless the Respondent requested a hearing. The Respondent did not request a hearing.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Board finds:

1. The Respondent was originally licensed to practice as a licensed graduate social worker ("LGSW") in the State of Maryland on August 28, 2007. The Respondent's license is currently suspended.

2. At all times relevant, the Respondent was employed as Director of Rehabilitation Services for the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program at Practice A, a community-based behavioral health organization. He was hired in May 2010.

3. On or about April 7, 2015, the Board received a complaint from the Clinical Director of Practice A (the "complainant") regarding the Respondent. Specifically, the complainant alleged that the Respondent engaged in a sexual

relationship with a client ("Client A") and that the Respondent fathered a child with Client A.

4. Thereafter, the Board initiated an investigation.

5. On or about April 7, 2015, Board staff conducted a telephone interview with the complainant. According to the complainant, on February 3, 2015 he received information that a client ("Client B") reported that the Respondent had a sexual relationship with her daughter, Client A.<sup>1</sup> Client B reported feeling uncomfortable coming to Practice A because the Respondent fathered a child with Client A.

6. The Respondent provided therapeutic counseling services for Client A from June 19, 2012 through April 20, 2013.

7. Also on February 3, 2015, the Respondent met with the complainant, the Medical Director and the CEO of Practice A regarding the allegations. The Respondent did not deny or dispute the allegations.

8. The Respondent was terminated from his employment at Practice A, effective February 4, 2015.

9. On or about April 7, 2015, Board staff conducted an interview with Client B. Client B stated that both she and her daughter, Client A, were receiving counseling at Practice A. She further stated that Client A was pregnant in 2013 and gave birth to a child in January 2014. During her labor, Client A revealed to Client B that the Respondent was the child's father.

10. Board staff requested an interview with Client A regarding the allegations against the Respondent, but Client A was unwilling to be interviewed.

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<sup>1</sup> Client B was receiving counseling services from another provider.

11. During the course of the Board's investigation, Board staff issued a subpoena for the Respondent's personnel file at Practice A. A review of the Respondent's personnel file revealed a handwritten note, signed by the Respondent, admitting to engaging in a sexual relationship with Client A "which resulted in the birth of our child."

12. According to the Respondent's handwritten note, after Client A "dropped out of treatment and was subsequently discharged," Client A contacted him via social media after "a period of time passed." The Respondent stated that he and Client A "began communicating and the contacts were more social/explicit ultimately escalating to hanging out socially on April 25, 2013."

13. The Respondent admitted to having sexual intercourse with Client A on April 25, 2013, which was five days after the Respondent's last counseling session with Client A.

14. The Respondent further admitted that Client A subsequently contacted him to report that she was pregnant.

15. On April 15, 2015, Board staff interviewed the Respondent, during which the Respondent confirmed the allegations made by the complainant.

16. When asked about his personal relationship with Client A, he stated that he accepted a Facebook friend request from Client A in or around January 2013. He further stated that there was "a lot of inappropriate texting back and forth" between him and Client A.

17. However, the Respondent denied any inappropriate contact with Client A during their sessions. He stated that he was aware that Client A was attracted to him because she made comments during her sessions that he would redirect.

18. The Respondent was most recently employed at an outpatient mental health facility in Baltimore, Maryland, where he provides counseling services to male and female clients.

19. On or about May 27, 2015, the Board issued an Order for Summary Suspension of the Respondent's license to practice social work. A show cause hearing before the Board was scheduled for June 12, 2015.

20. The Respondent failed to appear at the show cause hearing.

21. The Respondent's conduct constitutes a violation of H.O. §§ 19-311(4), (5) and (6), as well as COMAR 10.42.03.03B(3) and 10.42.03.05A and C.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes as a matter of law that the Respondent violated H.O. §§ 19-311(4), (5) and (6). The Board also concludes as a matter of law that the Respondent violated COMAR 10.42.03.03B(3), COMAR 10.42.03.05A and C.

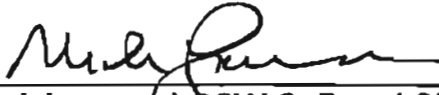
#### **ORDER**

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is hereby:

**ORDERED** that the Respondent's license to practice social work in the State of Maryland is hereby **REVOKED**;

**ORDERED** that this Order is a PUBLIC DOCUMENT, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Govt. § 10-611 et seq. (2009 Repl. Vol. and 2011 Supp.).

10-9-15  
Date

  
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Mark Lannon, LCSW-C, Board Chair  
State Board of Social Work Examiners

**NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL**

Pursuant to Md. Health Occ. Code Ann. §19-313 (2014 Repl. Vol.), you have a right to take a direct judicial appeal. A Petition for Judicial Review must be filed within thirty (30) days of your receipt of this Order and shall be made as provided for judicial review of a final decision in the Md. State Govt. Code Ann. §§ 10-201 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol.), and Title 7, Chapter 200 of the Maryland Rules.