

IN THE MATTER OF * BEFORE THE
Masha Masuda Gerges, LMSW * MARYLAND STATE BOARD
Respondent * OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS
License Number: 16533 * Board Case Number: 2020-2823

* * * * *

PRE – CHARGE CONSENT ORDER

Background

Masha Masuda Gerges, LMSW was included in a Post Renewal Continuing Education Audit conducted by the Maryland Board of Social Examiners (“the Board”) on licenses requiring renewal by October 31, 2020. As a condition of continue licensure, licensed social workers are required to obtain forty (40) credit hours of Continuing Education Units (“CEU”) every two years in programs and categories approved by the Board, in accordance with Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 19-309(d)(3)(ii) and COMAR 10.42.06.03. The CEU’s may all be in Category I but may not consist of more than twenty CEU’s 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.

In lieu of instituting formal proceedings against Ms. Gerges for violations of the Maryland Social Workers Act, Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 19-101 et seq., the Board voted to resolve this matter by way of a Pre-Charge Consent Order. As a result, the Board and Ms. Gerges agreed to resolve this matter as set forth in this Consent Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. At all times relevant hereto, Ms. Gerges was licensed to practice social work in Maryland, License No. 16533. Ms. Gerges was first licensed by the Board on November 8, 2010 and her license is set to expire on October 31, 2020.
2. All licensees are required to sign a statement on the renewal application attesting to having completed this requirement.
3. On January 9, 2019, Ms. Gerges was mailed a letter from the Association of Social Work Boards ("ASWB") on behalf of the Board stating that she was randomly chosen as part of a Post Renewal Continuing Education Audit. This letter requested that Respondent supply continuing education documentation within thirty days of the letter. Ms. Gerges did not respond to the audit by the deadline.
4. On February 11, 2019, Ms. Gerges was mailed a second notice from ASWB "2015 Post Renewal Audit-Problem Notice". No response from Ms. Gerges.
5. A third letter "2018 Post Renewal Audit-Problem Notice" was sent on March 6, 2019.
6. A regular and certified letter, 2018 Post Renewal Continuing Education Audit-Final Notice was sent on April 21, 2020, stating this certified letter is your final Notice to forward to the MD Board of Social Work Examiners all documentation of your continuing education records for the renewal period November 1, 2016 to October 31, 2018".

All correspondence and documents shall be received by the Board within 15 calendar days from the date of the letter". The regular mail letter and certified letter receipt were not returned.

Ms. Gerges held an active license during the time period outlined in this audit.

Ms. Gerges renewed her LMSW license on 10/30/2018 for the period from November 1, 2018 to October 31, 2020.

8. Ms. Gerges did not meet the continuing education requirements and failed the audit.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes that

Ms. Rader is subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Md. Code Ann.

Health Occ. § Health Occ. § 19-311 (6) and COMAR 10.42.06.03.

ORDER

Based on an affirmative vote of a majority of the Board, it is this 8th day of September, 2020, hereby:

ORDERED that Ms. Gerges's license shall be **REPRIMANDED**; and be it further,

ORDERED that Ms. Gerges will be required to complete the 40.0 CEU's which include 20.0 category I CEUs and 3.0 category I or category II ethics within 180 days

ORDERED that Ms. Gerges will pay a fine of \$1500 within 180 days

ORDERED that Ms. Gerges will automatically be audited during the next licensing renewal cycles (2022 and 2024)

ORDERED that this is a formal order of the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners and as such is a public document pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, State Government Article, Section 10-617(h).

9/08/2020



Date

Gerard Farrell
Board Chair
Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners

CONSENT

1. By signing this Consent, I submit to the foregoing Consent Order as a resolution of this matter In lieu of formal charges, which process would have afforded me the right to a full evidentiary hearing. I consent and submit to the foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order as if made after a full evidentiary hearing in which I would have the right to counsel, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my behalf, and to all other substantive and procedural protections provided by law.
2. By signing this Consent, I waive any rights I may have had to contest the findings and determinations contained in this Consent Order.
3. I acknowledge that this is a formal order of the Board and as such is a public document.
4. I acknowledge the legal authority and the jurisdiction of the Board to enter into and enforce this Consent Order.
5. I sign this Consent Order freely and voluntarily and after having had the opportunity to consult with counsel. I fully understand the language, meaning, and effect of this Consent Order.

8/17/2020

Date



Masha M. Gerges, LMSW

STATE OF MARYLAND
COUNTY/CITY OF Montgomery:

I hereby certify that on this 17 August 2020 day of August, 2020, before me a Notary Public of the State of Maryland and County/City aforesaid, personally appeared Masha M. Gerges and made an oath in due form that the foregoing Consent was her voluntary act and deed.

Jenny Gonzalez
Notary Public

My commission expires: 8-27-22



JENNY GONZALEZ
Notary Public, State of Maryland
County of Montgomery
My Commission Expires August 27, 2022