

IN THE MATTER OF \* BEFORE THE  
KATE W. GOODELL, LCSW-C \* MARYLAND BOARD OF  
Respondent \* SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS  
LICENSE NUMBER: 15631 \* CASE NUMBER: 2013-1875

\* \* \* \* \*

CONSENT ORDER

On December 11, 2015, the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners ("the Board") charged **KATE W. GOODELL, LCSW-C**, (the "Respondent"), **License Number 15631** with violating the Maryland Social Work Examiners 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, § 42.03.01 *et seq.*

The Board charged the Respondent with violating the following provisions of H.O. § 19-311:

Subject to the hearing provisions of §19-213 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; to wit:

**Code Md. Reg. 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.

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On January 11, 2016, a Case Resolution Conference was convened in this matter. The Respondent agreed to enter into this Consent Order consisting of Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order.

### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Board finds the following:

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was and is licensed to practice clinical social work in the State of Maryland. The Respondent was initially licensed on December 2, 2009. Her license is currently active, and is scheduled to expire on October 31, 2017.

2. At all times relevant, the Respondent was employed as a social worker at Practice A, a community-based, independent, non-profit organization that provides a variety of health care services. Practice A is located in Baltimore, Maryland.

3. On or about June 13, 2013, the Board received the Respondent's self-report in which she disclosed to the Board that she engaged in "a short social relationship" with a former client ("Client A"). The Respondent further stated that she informed her supervisor, who instructed the Respondent to self-report her misconduct to the Board. The Respondent also completed an ethics course which addressed professional boundaries for social workers and other health care professionals.

4. Thereafter, the Board opened the case for investigation.

5. The Respondent began her employment at Practice A on or about August 8, 2010.

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6. The Respondent began providing therapeutic counseling to Client A on April 24, 2012 and diagnosed Client A with depression and bipolar disorder. Later in the therapy Client A disclosed that he had a history of sexual abuse. Patient A also had a history of substance abuse. The Respondent saw Client A for therapeutic services on approximately 17 occasions between April 2012 and January 2013.

7. In January 2013, Client A indicated his preference to receive treatment from a male provider. The Respondent terminated her professional relationship with Client A on January 31, 2013. Client A sought counseling services elsewhere but continued to visit Practice A for other health care services.

8. Several months later, the Respondent saw Client A at Practice A and they exchanged personal telephone numbers.

9. According to the Respondent's self-report, over the next few months, she and Client A spoke on the telephone and got together socially on three occasions.

10. The Respondent reported feeling anxiety about her relationship with Client A because she "knew the relationship was inappropriate and unprofessional." The Respondent ultimately ended the relationship with Client A, who threatened bodily harm to the Respondent and Respondent's minor child, and to contact the Respondent's employer.

11. The Respondent reported her misconduct to her supervisor, who instructed her to self-report to the Board. The Respondent was not terminated

from her employment at Practice A and continued to work there for another year until she resigned, effective September 1, 2014, to work in private practice.

12. On September 22, 2015, the Board's investigator interviewed the Respondent. The Respondent confirmed the information that she reported to the Board. The Respondent stated that she went out to eat with Client A at Dunkin Donuts on three occasions, and that he kissed her on the side of her cheek the second and third occasions, upon departure from the coffee shop

13. According to the Respondent, Client A had romantic feelings for the Respondent. The Respondent told Client A that they could not have any further contact.

14. The Respondent also stated that Client A was upset that she did not want to see him socially and began to make threats of violence against the Respondent and her minor child.<sup>1</sup> In July 2013, the Respondent obtained a temporary peace order against Client A, who failed to appear in court for two scheduled hearings. The Respondent believed that because Client A had not been served by the Sheriff's Office, he would likely not appear at a third hearing, and therefore she also did not appear. The case was then dismissed.

15. The Board's investigator attempted to contact Client A to interview him, but Client A did not respond to correspondence and did not comply with the subpoena to appear for an interview. The Board's Investigator reached Client A by telephone but Client A hung up the phone when the Board's investigator identified the subject of the investigation.

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<sup>1</sup> The Respondent stated that due to their professional relationship, she was aware that Patient A had a history of domestic violence and violent behavior.

16. The Respondent's conduct, as described above constitutes, in whole or in part, a violation of H.O. § 19-311(4), (5), and (6), to wit: COMAR10.42.03.05.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concluded that, if proven true, the factual allegations would support a finding as a matter of law that the Respondent violated H.O. §§ 19-311(4), (5), and (6), to wit: 10.42.03.05.

### **ORDER**

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 11TH day of MARCH, 2016, by a majority of a quorum of the Board considering this case:

**ORDERED** that the Respondent's license to practice social work shall be **SUSPENDED** for a period of at least **ONE (1) YEAR** with **NINE (9) MONTHS STAYED**; and it is further

**ORDERED** upon reinstatement of the Respondent's license to practice social work, she shall be immediately placed on Board-supervised **PROBATION** for a period of at least **TWO (2) YEARS** and until the following terms and conditions are satisfactorily complied with:

1. The Respondent's status as a licensed clinical social worker will be listed in the Board's computer records and website as being on "Probation";
2. During the probationary period, the Respondent is prohibited from employment in a solo practice and must physically share office space with

other mental health practitioners (this proscription is not intended to require formal business relationships with others);

3. The Respondent shall provide a copy of this Consent Order to her employer within five (5) days of commencing any employment. The Respondent shall ensure that her employer(s) send confirmation of their receive of this Consent Order to the Board;

4. During the probationary period, the Respondent shall enroll in and successfully complete a one-on-one, Board-approved ethics tutorial, focusing on the issues that gave rise to this case. After the successful completion of the one-on-one ethics tutorial, the instructor shall provide the Board with a written report detailing the Respondent's participation in and completion of the course. The Respondent shall also submit a written statement to the Board stating what she has learned from the ethics tutorial. The Respondent may not use any continuing education credits earned through taking the required course to fulfill any continued education requirements that are mandated for licensure renewal in this State;

5. The Respondent shall secure a Board-certified supervisor ("supervisor") who shall supply the Board with quarterly, written reports on the Respondent's practice. the Respondent shall provide the supervisor with a copy of this Consent Order prior to their initial meeting, and the Board may release to the supervisor any portion of the investigative file as is deemed necessary by the Board and/or supervisor. A negative report

from the supervisor may result in a violation of this Consent Order and further sanctions at the Board's discretion. The Board, in its discretion, may reduce the frequency of the written reports from the supervisor, upon a written request from the supervisor; and it is further

**ORDERED** that no earlier than **TWO (2) YEARS** from the commencement of the probationary period, the Respondent may submit a written petition to the Board requesting termination of probation. The Board shall, in its discretion, grant the termination if the Respondent has fully and satisfactorily complied with all of the probationary terms and conditions, including successful completion of the one-on-one ethics tutorial, and there are no pending complaints related to the charges; and it is further

**ORDERED** that if the Respondent violates any of the terms and conditions of Probation and this Consent Order, the Board, in its discretion, after notice and an opportunity for a show cause hearing before the Board, may impose any sanction which the Board may have imposed in this case, including a probationary term and conditions of probation, reprimand, suspension, revocation and/or a monetary penalty; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the Respondent shall practice according to the Maryland Social Work Examiners Act and in accordance with all applicable laws, statutes and regulations; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the Respondent shall be responsible for all costs incurred in fulfilling the terms and conditions of the Consent Order; and it is further

**ORDERED** that this Consent Order shall be a PUBLIC DOCUMENT pursuant to Md. Code Ann. General Provisions §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol.).



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

**CONSENT**

I, Kate W. Goodell, acknowledge that I consulted with counsel before signing this document. By this Consent, I 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 had an opportunity to consult with 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.

2/12/16  
Date

Kate W. Goodell LCSW-C  
Kate W. Goodell, LCSW-C  
Respondent

Read and approved:  
[Signature]  
Thomas Valkenet, Esq., Attorney for Respondent

**NOTARY**

**STATE OF MARYLAND**

**CITY/COUNTY OF** Baltimore

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2016, before me, a Notary Public of the foregoing State personally appeared Kate W. Goodell and made oath in due form of law that signing the foregoing Consent Order was her voluntary act and deed, and the statements made herein are true and correct.

AS WITNESSETH my hand and notarial seal.  
[Signature]  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 2-17-19