

Paula Grace, LCSW-C * BEFORE THE
Respondent * MARYLAND STATE BOARD
License Number: 11769 * OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS
* Board Case Number: 2018-2541

* * * * *

PRE – CHARGE CONSENT ORDER

Background

Paula Grace, LCSW-C 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, 2018. 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. Grace 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. Grace agreed to resolve this matter as set forth in this Consent Order.

Received
OCT 18 2018
Board of Social
Work Examiners

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. At all times relevant hereto, Ms. Grace was licensed to practice social work in Maryland, License No. 11769. Paula Grace, LCSW-C was first licensed by the Board on October 22, 2002 and her license was set to expire on October 31, 2018.
2. All licensees are required to sign a statement on the renewal application attesting to having completed this requirement.
3. On January 4, 2017, Ms. Grace 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. Documentation was not in compliance.
4. On February 8 2017, Ms. Grace was mailed a second notice from ASWB "2016 Post Renewal Audit-Problem Notice". Documentation was not in compliance.
5. The audit revealed that Ms. Grace held an active license during the time period outlined in the audit. In addition, Ms. Grace renewed her LCSW-C license on 10/07/2016 for the period from November 1, 2016 to October 31, 2018.
6. A review of Ms. Grace CEU certificates by the Board Continuing Education Office revealed that she earned 22 Category I and zero Category II Continuing Education Units.
7. Therefore, Ms. Grace 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. Grace 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 14th day of September, 2018, hereby:

ORDERED that Respondent's license shall be **REPRIMANDED**;

ORDERED Ms. Grace shall pay a fine of \$1000.00;

ORDERED that Ms. Grace will automatically be audited during the next two licensing renewal cycles.

ORDERED that Ms. Grace will complete the outstanding 18.0 Category I or Category II CEU's within 180 days from the date of this Pre Charge Consent Order.

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, General Provisions Article, Section 4-101 through 4-601 (Repl. Vol. 2014).

10/19/2018



Date

Sherryl Silberman, LCSW-C
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.

10/16/2018

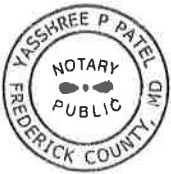
Date

Paula Grace, LCSW-C

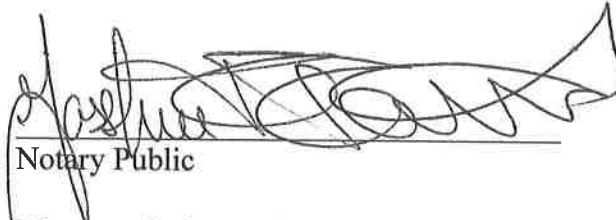
Paula Grace, LCSW-C

STATE OF MARYLAND
COUNTY/CITY OF FREDERICK :

I hereby certify that on this 16th day of October,
2018, before me a Notary Public of the State of Maryland and County/City aforesaid, personally
appeared Paula Grace, LCSW-C and made an oath in due form that the foregoing Consent was
her voluntary act and deed.



Yasshree P Patel
NOTARY PUBLIC
Frederick County
State of Maryland
My Commission Expires
November 19, 2019



Notary Public
My commission expires: _____