

IN THE MATTER OF

BRANDON JACKSON-MILLS, LMSW

Respondent

License Number: 24999

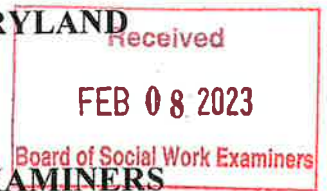
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BEFORE THE MARYLAND

STATE BOARD OF

SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

Case Number: 2021-3085



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CONSENT ORDER

The Maryland State Board of Social Work Examiners (the “Board”) hereby charges **BRANDON JACKSON-MILLS, LMSW** (“the Respondent”), License Number 24999, with violating the Maryland Social Workers Practice Act (the “Act”) codified at Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 19-101 *et seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol.).

The pertinent provisions of the Act provide the following:

Health Occ. § 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:

- (1) Obtained or attempted to obtain a license for the applicant or licensee or for another through fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation;
- ...
- (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;

- (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[.]

Health Occ. § 19-404. False information prohibited

In an attempt to obtain a license, a person may not intentionally give false information to the Board.

The pertinent provisions of Md. Code Regs. (“COMAR”), provide the following:

COMAR 10.42.03.06. Standards of Practice

A. Professional Competence. A licensee shall:

...

- (7) Document and maintain appropriate and accurate records of professional service, supervision, and research work[.]

COMAR 10.42.08.08. Responsibilities of a Supervisee

A. A supervisee shall:

...

- (4) Maintain documentation, for at least 5 years, of the supervisory sessions, including the dates, duration, and focus of the supervisory sessions[.]
 - (a)

On December 19, 2022, the parties appeared at a Case Resolution Conference (“CRC”) before a committee of the Board. The parties included the Respondent, represented by counsel, and the Administrative Prosecutor assigned to the case. As a result

of the negotiations at the CRC, the parties agreed to the following Consent Order consisting of Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board finds the following:

1. The Respondent was issued a license to practice as a licensed master social worker (“LMSW”) in Washington, D.C. on May 28, 2019, under license number LG50082944. That license expired on June 31, 2021. The Respondent obtained a license in Maryland by endorsement on or around June 9, 2019, under license number 24999. The Respondent’s Maryland license is currently active and scheduled to expire on October 31, 2023.

2. The Respondent was employed as a Case Manager¹ with the Employer in Landover, MD at all times relevant to the complaint discussed *infra*.

3. On October 27, 2021, the Respondent submitted an application in Maryland for Endorsement for the Advanced Generalist License as a licensed certified social worker (“LCSW”). As part of his application, the Respondent submitted a Supervision Verification Form, Summary Sheet, and a Contract for Supervision for LCSW and LCSW-C Licensure (“Supervision Contract”). At the top of the Supervision Verification Form in bold font it states: “All Information Shall Be Provided By The Social Work Supervisor.” The affidavit section of the Supervision Verification Form contains a signature of a name starting with the letter “B” and the date of October 14, 2021. The dates of supervision listed are May 28,

¹ Employment as a Case Manager at the Employer required the Respondent to hold a valid social worker license in Maryland.

2019 to October 14, 2021. The Supervision Contract submitted by the Respondent has a signature for the Supervisor on the “Agency Administrator’s Signature” line, a signature for the Supervisor on the “Supervisor Signature” line, and a signature for the Respondent on the “Supervisee Signature” line. All three signatures list a date of May 16, 2019.

The Complaint

4. On December 7, 2021, a complaint was filed by Board staff alleging that the Respondent submitted a Supervision Verification Form that was signed and completed by the Respondent when it should have been signed and completed by the Respondent’s supervisor.

5. Based on the complaint, the Board began an investigation of the Respondent.

Board Investigation

6. As part of its investigation, the Board subpoenaed the Respondent’s personnel file from the Employer. The Board also conducted interviews which included interviews with the Respondent and his Supervisor.

7. On March 2, 2022, the Board sent a subpoena to the Respondent instructing the Respondent to provide legible copies of his Supervision Contract; Supervision Verification Form; and Supervision/Progress Notes.

8. The Respondent provided the Board with a Summary Sheet and a Supervision Verification Form, both dated December 22, 2021. The affidavit section of the Supervision Verification Form contains a purported signature of the Supervisor and the date of December 22, 2021. The dates of supervision listed are May 28, 2019, to December 16, 2021.

9. The Board also received a Supervision Contract from the Respondent which has a signature for an individual on the “Agency Administrator’s Signature” line, a signature for the Supervisor on the “Supervisor Signature” line, and a signature for the Respondent on the “Supervisee Signature” line. All three signatures list a date of June 7, 2019.

10. The Board did not receive any supervision notes from the Respondent.

11. The Board also sent a subpoena to the Respondent’s Supervisor on March 2, 2022, requesting, *inter alia*, a copy of the Supervision Contract. The Supervision Contract received from the Supervisor was **different** from the contracts received from the Respondent. The Supervision Contract received from the Supervisor does not have a signature for an individual on the “Agency Administrator’s Signature” line. It does have a signature for the Supervisor on the “Supervisor Signature” line and a signature for the Respondent on the “Supervisee Signature” line. Both of the signatures list a date of May 28, 2019.

12. On March 14, 2022, the Respondent provided a written narrative in response to the complaint in which he stated the following:

- a. On or around November 18, 2021, the Respondent was made aware that he “did not correctly complete the application” that he submitted on October 27, 2021. The Respondent stated that he was told “that [he] did not correctly submit the supervisor verification form due to... using a time frame of May 2nd 2019 [*sic*] - October 14th 2021 [*sic*].”

- b. The Respondent met with his Supervisor following a request to resubmit the paperwork. During that meeting, the Respondent and his Supervisor “reviewed the documentation prior to filling it out, receiving his signature, and resubmitting it, in person, to [the Complainant] on December 7, 20[21]. It was at this time, [the Complainant] informed me I should not have filled out the supervision verification nor the summary sheet.”
- c. The Respondent stated that after he became “aware of this mistake” he “shared with [his] supervisor that he was supposed to fill out those sheets and [that the Respondent] was expected to only sign.” The Respondent further stated “[a]t no point in time did I fill out anything other than the dates and numbers, and I would not subject my career nor my supervisor’s career by foraging [*sic*] his or anyone else’s signature. On January 4th I resubmitted all of the paperwork over with my supervisor appropriately filling out the necessary paperwork.”

13. During an interview on March 24, 2022, the Respondent’s Supervisor provided the following information:

- a. The Respondent became his supervisee at the time of the Respondent’s hire with the Employer on or around August 1,

2019. The Respondent was still under the supervision of the Supervisor at the time of the interview.

- b. A Supervision Contract was signed with the Respondent on or around May 28, 2019.
- c. The Supervisor has become familiar with the Respondent's signature over the years of supervising the Respondent.
- d. The signature on the bottom of the Supervision Verification Form that was dated October 14, 2021, appears to be that of the Respondent.
- e. The Supervisor signed his name on the Supervision Contract on the line designated for the supervisor signature. The date of the signature was May 16, 2019.
- f. On the Supervision Contract, there is a signature of the Supervisor's name on the line designated for the agency supervisor which was also dated May 16, 2019. The Supervisor advised that he did not sign or date on the line designated for the agency supervisor because he was not the agency supervisor.
- g. The Supervisor did not sign the Summary Sheet. The signature on the bottom of the form appears to be that of the Respondent. The Supervisor stated that he as the supervisor

should have signed that form.

14. During an interview on March 29, 2022, the Respondent provided the following information:

- a. At the time of the interview, the Respondent was still being supervised by the aforementioned Supervisor. The Respondent was also working as an independent contractor with another company in Gaithersburg where he was employed as a therapist providing telehealth services.
- b. The Respondent admitted that the signature on the bottom of the Supervisor Verification Form dated October 14, 2021, was his signature. The Respondent was not aware that he was not supposed to sign said form until after he submitted the form. The Respondent “thought that [he] was doing the right thing there, signing [his] name at the bottom and putting in all [his] information.”
- c. The Respondent’s Supervisor signed the Supervision Contract. The Respondent stated that the signature on the line designated for the agency supervisor is that of his Supervisor.
- d. The Respondent did not sign any signatures for his Supervisor and he was present when his Supervisor signed the documents.

- e. The Respondent admitted that he signed his name on the Summary Sheet and that he was not aware that a supervisor was supposed to sign instead.
- f. The Respondent submitted the paperwork twice: once in October and once in December. The Respondent was not aware either time that he had completed the forms incorrectly prior to his submissions.
- g. The Respondent acknowledged that he received a subpoena dated March 2, 2022, requesting, among other things, copies of his progress/supervision notes. The Respondent admitted that he did not provide his supervision notes to the Board for two reasons: 1) the files that were on his laptop were deleted when his laptop crashed at the beginning of the pandemic, and 2) the Respondent stopped taking notes after his initial files were deleted.
- h. The Respondent did not know he was supposed to continue taking notes. He also did not recall having ever been informed of this responsibility by his Supervisor.

15. On May 2, 2022, the Supervisor sent a letter at the Board's request affirming that "the signature on one of the forms presented as 'Supervisor' is not my signature."

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes as a matter of law that the Respondent violated Health Occ. § 19-311(1) (obtain or attempt to obtain a license through fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation), § 19-311(4) (commits any act of gross negligence, incompetence, or misconduct in the practice of social work), § 19-311(5) (engage in course of conduct that is inconsistent with generally accepted standards of professional conduct in the practice of social work), § 19-311(6) (violates any provision of this title or regulations governing the practice of social work adopted and published by the Board), § 19-311(11) (makes or files a false report or record in the practice of social work), § 19-311(16) (fails to cooperate with a lawful investigation conducted by the Board), and § 19-404 (provides false information in order to obtain license), in that the Respondent violated and COMAR 10.42.03.06(A)(7) and 10.42.08.08(A)(4).

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 8th day of February, 2023, by a majority of the quorum of the Board considering this case hereby:

ORDERED that the Respondent's license to practice social work shall be **placed on PROBATION for a minimum of TWO (2) YEARS** as of the effective date of the Consent Order, and continuing until the Respondent has successfully completed the following probationary conditions:

1. During the probationary period, the Respondent shall be supervised

by a Board-approved supervisor, to whom the Board may release any portion of the investigative file as is deemed necessary.

- a. The Respondent shall meet with the supervisor for a minimum of three (3) hours per month and provide the supervisor with full access to the Respondent's case files and documentation.
 - b. The Respondent shall ensure that the supervisor submits written quarterly reports to the Board regarding the Respondent's progress during the supervisory period.
2. Within one (1) year of the effective date of the Consent Order, the Respondent shall enroll in and complete in person or via live-webinar a three-credit CEU **course on ethics**, approved in advance by the Board.
 3. Within one (1) year of the effective date of the Consent Order, the Respondent shall enroll in and complete in person or via live-webinar a three-credit CEU **course on documentation/recordkeeping**, approved in advance by the Board.

ORDERED that the effective date of this Order is the date that it is signed by the Board;

ORDERED that the Respondent shall obey all laws and regulations that govern the practice of social work in the State of Maryland;

ORDERED that the Respondent shall bear all costs of complying with this Order;

ORDERED that no part of the training or education that the Respondent receives in order to comply with the Consent Order may be applied to his continuing education credits required for certification;

ORDERED that if the Respondent obtains an LCSW-C or any other type of license during the probationary period, the same terms set forth in this Consent Order shall continue until the probation is terminated;

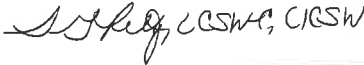
ORDERED that the Respondent shall not serve or continue to serve as a Board-authorized sponsor, presenter and/or trainer of social work continuing education learning activities, an ethics tutor, an evaluator for the Board, or a Board-approved supervisor for a period of five (5) years from the effective date of this Consent Order;

ORDERED that if the Respondent violates any of the terms and conditions of this Consent Order, the Board, in its discretion, after notice and an opportunity for an evidentiary hearing if there is a genuine dispute as to the underlying facts, or an opportunity for a show cause hearing before the Board otherwise, may impose any sanction that the Board may have imposed in this case, including additional probationary terms and conditions, a reprimand, suspension, revocation and/or a monetary penalty;

ORDERED that within five (5) days of the effective date of this Consent Order, the Respondent shall furnish his employer(s) and supervisor with copies of this Consent Order and shall submit written proof of the employer(s) and supervisor's receipt of the Consent Order.

ORDERED that, for purposes of public disclosure and, as permitted by Md. General Provisions §§ 4-101 *et. seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol.), this document consists of the contents of the foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order, and is reportable to any entity to whom the Board is obligated to report, and will be displayed on the Board's website.

2/8/2023



Date

Sondra Petty, LCSW-C, Board Chair
Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners


CONSENT

I, Brandon Jackson-Mills, LMSW, License No. 24999, by affixing my signature hereto, acknowledge that:

1. I am represented by counsel and have consulted with counsel on this matter. I have knowingly and voluntarily entered into this Consent Order. By this Consent and for the purpose of resolving the issues raised by the Board, I agree and accept to be bound by the foregoing Consent Order and its conditions.
2. I am aware that I am entitled to a formal evidentiary hearing, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 19-312 (2021 Repl. Vol.) and Md. State Gov't, §§ 10-201 *et. seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol.).
3. I acknowledge the validity and enforceability of this Consent Order as if entered into after the conclusions of a formal evidentiary hearing in which I would have the right to counsel, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my own behalf, and to all other substantive and procedural precautions as provided by law. I am waiving those procedural and substantive processes.
4. I voluntarily enter into and agree to abide by the terms and conditions

5. I acknowledge that any failure to abide by the conditions set forth in this Consent Order, I may be subject to further disciplinary actions, including up to revocation of my license to practice as a social worker.
6. I sign this Consent Order voluntarily, without reservation, and I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning, and terms of this Consent Order.

2/3/23
Date

 LMSW

Brandon Jackson-Mills, LMSW

NOTARY

STATE OF Maryland
COUNTY OF Prince George's

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 3rd day of February, 2023, before me, a Notary Public of the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared **BRANDON JACKSON-MILLS, LMSW, License No. 24999**, 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



ERMELYN AYUBAN ROJAS
Notary Public - State of Maryland
Prince George's County
My Commission Expires Feb 24, 2024



Notary Public

My commission expires: 02/24/2024