

IN THE MATTER OF  
VICKY L. RESH, LCSW-C

Respondent

License Number: 16149

\* BEFORE THE MARYLAND  
\* STATE BOARD OF  
\* SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS  
\* Case Number: 2021-2973

\* \* \* \* \*

**CONSENT ORDER**

On March 3, 2022, the Maryland State Board of Social Work Examiners (the “Board”) charged **VICKY LYNN RESH, LCSW-C** (the “Respondent”), License Number 16149, with violating the Maryland Social Workers Practice Act (the “Act”), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. (“Health Occ.”) §§ 19-101 *et seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol.) and Md. Code Regs. (“COMAR”) 10.42.03 *et seq.*

Specifically, the Board charged the Respondent with violating the following provisions of the Act and COMAR:

**Health Occ. § 19-311. Denials, reprimands, suspensions, and revocations  
-- Grounds.**

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

With respect to Health Occ. § 19-311(6), the Board alleged that the Respondent violated the following provisions of the Board's regulations:

**COMAR 10.42.03 Code of Ethics**

**.02 Definitions**

- A. In this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated.
- B. Terms Defined.
  - ...
    - (3) "Dual relationship" means a relationship in which a licensee is involved with a client professionally and in any other capacity

**.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 enter into a nonsexual relationship with an individual with whom the licensee's prior professional contact:
  - (1) Was of a brief, peripheral, or indirect nature; and
  - (2) Did not constitute a therapeutic relationship.

On May 17, 2022, a Case Resolution Conference ("CRC") was held before a committee of the Board. As a resolution of this matter, the Respondent agreed to enter this public Consent Order consisting of Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order.

## FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board makes the following Findings of Fact:

### **I. BACKGROUND**

1. At all times relevant, the Respondent was and is licensed to practice clinical social work in the State of Maryland. The Respondent was originally licensed to practice clinical social work on July 1, 2010. She has maintained continuous licensure since that time, and her license is current through October 31, 2022.

2. The Respondent was employed as a therapist at a practice<sup>1</sup> (the “Practice”) in Cumberland, Maryland from 2014 until 2017.

3. On or around November 1, 2020, the Respondent became an independent practitioner and provides her clients virtual therapeutic services.

### **II. THE COMPLAINT**

4. On or around May 10, 2021, the Board received a letter (the “Complaint”) from a former client (the “Client”) at the Practice alleging that the Respondent engaged in an inappropriate relationship with her.

5. Specifically, the Client alleged in the Complaint, among other things, that the Respondent “bonded with [her] in a close relationship out of therapy.” The Client further stated that the Respondent sent her text messages, met her for coffee, “shared her

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<sup>1</sup> To maintain confidentiality, the names of individuals and health care facilities will not be identified in this document. The Respondent may obtain the identity of the individuals and health care facilities referenced herein by contacting the administrative prosecutor.

issues with her,” and told her that she had gifts for her until the Respondent abruptly ended the relationship, which caused the Client to experience “hurt, pain, and trust issues.”

6. Based on the Complaint, the Board conducted an investigation of the Respondent.

### **III. THE BOARD’S INVESTIGATION**

7. As part of its investigation, the Board conducted an under-oath interview of the Client; subpoenaed the Client’s treatment records; and obtained text messages sent between the Respondent and the Client. The Board also notified the Respondent of the Complaint, requested that she provide a written response and conducted an under-oath interview of the Respondent.

#### ***The Client’s Health Records***

8. On or about July 29, 2021, a Board investigator subpoenaed the Client’s health records from the Practice (the “Client’s Health Records”).

9. The Client’s Health Records obtained by the Board showed that the Respondent treated the Client at the Practice from approximately September 17, 2014, until April 21, 2017.

10. The Client’s Health Records further stated, among other things, that the Respondent diagnosed the Client with and provided treatment for, among other things, a mental disorder.

#### ***The Respondent’s Response***

11. On or about July 29, 2021, the Board notified the Respondent of the Complaint, requested a written response and subpoenaed, among other things, a copy of all correspondence with the Client, including text messages.

12. On or around August 10, 2021, the Respondent provided the Board a written response. In her written response the Respondent stated, among other things, that:

- a. On or around May 1, 2017, she left the Practice but continued to provide the Client spiritual support until 2020.
- b. She met the Client for coffee, participated in book exchanges and gave the Client a holiday gift.
- c. She continued to contact the Client after her spiritual support had ended due to concerns about her personal safety.

***Text Messages Between the Client and the Respondent***

13. The Respondent also provided the Board text messages (the “Text Messages”) which documented communication between the Respondent and the Client between September 23, 2020, and May 28, 2021.

14. The Text Messages contained the Client’s statements to the Respondent which included, but were not limited to:

- a. On September 23, 2020, the Client stated to the Respondent. “Did you get a new phone? Give it to me. In case of an emergency.”
- b. On December 6, 2020, the Client told the Respondent that she was hospitalized because she was suicidal.
- c. On December 23, 2020, the Client stated to the Respondent, “The separation is hard. And not being able to get together one last time I missed.”
- d. On February 11, 2021, the Client stated to the Respondent, “I didn’t know you were going to end everything. How sad.”

- e. On February 17, 2021, the Client stated to the Respondent, “I don’t know why I had to lose the friendship that was made. It just didn’t seem right and I felt abandoned....I loved you deeply. You did so much for me.

### ***Interview of the Respondent***

15. On or around October 12, 2021, a Board investigator conducted an under-oath interview of the Respondent. The Respondent stated:

- a. While employed at the Practice, she provided counseling for adults and teens who were suffering from depression, anxiety, and serious mental health disorders.
- b. She provided therapy to the Client who had “some very serious diagnoses.” During the therapy, she shared details of her personal life with the Client.
- c. When she left the Practice, she was concerned about the Client’s “ongoing stability” and wanted to be “supportive” to the Client through prayer and encouragement as a “sister in Christ” (the “Relationship”).
- d. During the Relationship, she and the Client met for coffee, sent text messages, and exchanged items including books.
- e. She terminated the Relationship when she recognized that the Client was “looking to me for treatment” and becoming “dependent” on her.
- f. The Relationship became an “obsession” for the Client. The Client called her and left a long voicemail inquiring about her personal life. The Client also attempted to have a package delivered to her.
- g. She believed that the Client filed the Complaint because “I wasn’t going to be what she expected me to be and it angered [the Client].”

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes as a matter of law that the Respondent's actions, as described above, constitute violation of the following

provisions of the Act and COMAR: Health Occ. § 19-311(4), Committing an act of misconduct in the practice of social work; Health Occ. § 19-311(5), Engaging in a course of conduct that is inconsistent with generally accepted professional standards in the practice of social work; and Health Occ. § 19-311(6), violating regulations governing the practice of social work adopted and published by the Board, *i.e.*, COMAR 10.42.03.05.

**ORDER**

It is, on the affirmative vote of a majority of the Board, hereby:

**ORDERED** that the Respondent's license to practice clinical social work in the State of Maryland shall be **REPRIMANDED**;

**AND IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Respondent's license is hereby **SUSPENDED** for a total period of **SIXTY (60) DAYS and the period of the suspension shall be stayed**;

**AND IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Respondent shall be placed on **PROBATION** for a minimum period of **ONE (1) YEAR** and until the terms and conditions are fully and satisfactorily complied with:

- (1) The Respondent shall enroll in and successfully complete a Board-approved ethics tutorial concentrating on boundary issues. Promptly after the completion of the tutorial, the Respondent shall ensure that the instructor provide the Board with a written report detailing the Respondent's participation in and completion of the tutorial. This ethics tutorial shall be in addition to any course required to satisfy the continuing education requirements for the applicable 2-year licensure renewal period.
- (2) Within **(1) YEAR** of the execution of the Consent Order, the Respondent shall pay a fine in the amount of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500)** by certified check or money order to the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners.

- (3) The Respondent shall comply with the Maryland Social Workers Act and all laws, statutes and regulations pertaining thereto;

**AND IT IS FURTHER 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; and it is further

**AND IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that after the conclusion of the probationary period, the Respondent may submit a written petition to the Board requesting termination of probation. After consideration of the petition, the probation may be terminated through an order of the Board. The Respondent may be required to appear before the Board or a committee of the Board to discuss her petition for termination. The Board will grant the petition to terminate the probation if the Respondent has complied with all of the probationary terms and conditions and there are no pending complaints involving similar violations found in this case before the Board;

**AND IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that if the Board determines, after notice and an opportunity for an evidentiary hearing if there is a genuine dispute as to a material fact or a show cause hearing before the Board if there is no genuine dispute as to a material fact, that the Respondent has failed to comply with any terms or condition of probation or this Consent Order, the Board may reprimand the Respondent, place the Respondent on probation with appropriate terms and conditions, impose a civil monetary fine upon the



Respondent, or suspend or revoke the Respondent's license to practice social work in Maryland; and it is further

**AND IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Respondent is responsible for all costs incurred in fulfilling the terms and conditions of this Consent Order; and it is further

**AND IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that this Consent Order is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Provisions §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol.).



8/4/2022

Date

Sondra Petty, LCSW-C, LICSW  
Vice Chair  
State Board of Social Work Examiners

CONSENT

I, Vicky Lynn Resh, License No. **16149**, by affixing my signature hereto, acknowledge that:

1. I am not represented by counsel and I have had an opportunity to consult with counsel on this matter. I have knowingly and voluntarily agreed to enter 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. Code Ann., 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 set forth herein as a resolution of the Charges against me. I waive any right to contest the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and I waive my right to a full evidentiary hearing, as set forth above, and any right to appeal this Consent Order or any adverse ruling of the Board that might have followed any such hearing.
5. I acknowledge that any failure to abide by the conditions set forth in this Consent Order, I may be subject 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.

7/7/22  
Date

Vicky Lynn Resh  
Vicky Lynn Resh

**NOTARY**

STATE OF Maryland

COUNTY OF Garrett

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 7 day of JULY 2022,

before me, a Notary Public of the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared **Vicky Lynn Resh**, License Number **16149**, 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.**

Bridget Simpkins  
Notary Public

