

IN THE MATTER OF	*	BEFORE THE MARYLAND
DAMON E. THOMPSON, LCSW-C	*	BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
RESPONDENT	*	EXAMINERS
LICENSE NUMBER: 11238	*	CASE NUMBER: 21-3004

* * * * *

CONSENT ORDER

The Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners (the “Board”) charged **Damon E. Thompson, LCSW-C**, License Number: **11238** (the “Respondent”), under the Maryland Social Workers Practice Act (the “Act”), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. (“Heath. Occ.”) §§ 19-101 *et seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol. & 2022 Supp.). Specifically, the Board charged the Respondent with violating the following:

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:

.....

- (16) Fails to cooperate with a lawful investigation conducted by the Board[.]

On June 26, 2023, the parties appeared at a Case Resolution Conference (“CRC”) before a committee of the Board. The Respondent and the Administrative Prosecutor assigned to the case participated in the CRC. 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 that:

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was licensed to practice as a licensed clinical social worker in the State of Maryland. The Respondent was originally licensed to practice social work in the State of Maryland on or about April 20, 2001. The Respondent's license expires on or about October 31, 2023.

2. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent held the position of State Director at a facility (the "Facility") located in Maryland. The Facility provides therapeutic support for children in foster care.

3. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent worked primarily from home due to Covid restrictions.

4. The Respondent began working at the Facility in November 2020. As State Director, the Respondent oversees the daily operations of the Facility. Some of the Respondent's duties include overseeing (1) foster care programs; (2) an independent living program; and (3) a behavioral health program.

5. In May 2021, Board staff began an investigation of a social worker (the "Social Worker") employed at the Facility after receiving a complaint regarding his conduct.¹

6. In a letter dated June 8, 2021, Board staff informed the Respondent that

¹ For confidentiality and privacy purposes, the names of the Social Worker and the Facility involved in this case are not disclosed in this document. Upon written request, the Administrative Prosecutor will provide the information to the Respondent.

Board staff were investigating the Social Worker and would like to speak with him. The Respondent was asked to contact Board staff at an email address provided in the letter. The June 8, 2021 letter was sent by mail to the Facility's address. The Respondent did not respond to Board staff's June 8, 2021 letter.

7. On or about June 8, 2021, several Board subpoenas dated June 8, 2021, and addressed to the Custodian of Record and were mailed to Facility's address. Most of the subpoenas requested various documents and other information pertaining to the complaint filed with the Board against the Social Worker. One subpoena requested information regarding the Facility's workplace conduct policy. All the subpoenas indicated that all information requested be returned to Board staff within ten (10) working days of service. The information requested the subpoena was not timely received by Board staff.

8. Although the Respondent was responsible for the operations of the Facility, the Respondent did not ensure that Facility staff timely responded to the Board subpoenas dated June 8, 2021.

9. On or about June 30, 2021, a Board subpoena dated June 30, 2021, was mailed to the Respondent's home address on file with the Board. The subpoena requested that the Respondent appear at the Board's offices on July 14, 2021, for an interview with Board staff.

10. The Respondent did not respond to the Board subpoena dated June 30, 2021 until July 21, 2021.

11. On or about September 17, 2021, three Board subpoenas dated September 17, 2021, were mailed to the Respondent's home address on file with the Board. Two subpoenas requested the Respondent to provide to Board staff within ten (10) working days of service the following: (1) information relating to Social Worker's supervision and (2) the Facility's investigative file for the investigation that was conducted on the Social Worker. The other subpoena requested that the Respondent appear for an October 19, 2021 interview with Board staff.

12. The Board subpoenas dated September 17, 2021, were mailed to the Respondent's home address on file with the Board.

13. The Respondent provided Board staff the information requested in the Board subpoenas dated September 17, 2021.

14. On October 19, 2021, the Respondent was interviewed under oath by Board staff.

15. During his interview with Board staff, the Respondent admitted that he had received the Board subpoenas that were mailed to his home address on file with the Board. The Respondent also admitted that Facility staff had informed him of the Board subpoenas that were sent to the Custodian of Records for the Facility in June and July 2021.

16. The Respondent further admitted that he did not respond to the Board's subpoenas until September 18, 2021 because he was attending to personal family issues.

17. The Respondent did not timely response to the Board's June and July 2021 subpoenas because he was attending to personal family issues.

18. The Respondent's conduct as set forth above is a violation of Health Occ. §19-311 (16).

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes that the Respondent violated Health Occ. §19-311 (16).

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is, by a majority of the Board considering this case:

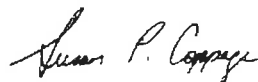
ORDERED that the Respondent's license is **REPRIMANDED**; and it is further

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

ORDERED that the Consent Order is a Final Order of the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners and as such is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** which shall be posted to the Board's website and is reportable to any entity whom the Board is obligated to report pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol & 2022 Supp.).

9/07/2023

Date



Susan Coppage, LCSW-C, Board Chair
Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners

CONSENT

I, **DAMON E. THOMPSON, LCSW-C**, acknowledge that I have not been represented by an attorney before entering into this Consent Order. By this Consent Order 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. I waive any rights I may have to contest the Findings of Fact and the 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 provided by the law. I acknowledge the legal authority and jurisdiction of the Board to initiate these proceedings and to issue and enforce this Consent Order. I 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, voluntarily and without reservation, after having an opportunity to consult with counsel, and I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning and terms of this Consent Order.

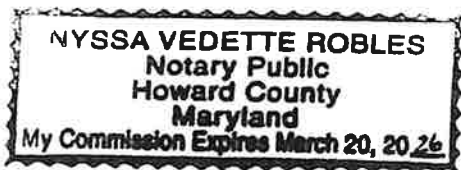
7/25/2023
Date


Damon E. Thompson, LSWC-C

NOTARY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 25TH day of July, 2023,
before me, a Notary Public of the State and City/County aforesaid, personally appeared,
DAMON E THOMPSON, LCSW-C, LICENSE NUMBER: 11238 and declared and
affirmed under the penalties of perjury that signing the foregoing Consent Order was her
voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS my hand and Notarial seal.



Nyssa V. Robles
Notary Public

My Commission expires: 3/20/26