

License Number: 16674

*** BEFORE THE MARYLAND**
*** STATE BOARD OF**
*** SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS**
*** Case Numbers: 2018-2551 & 2025-3771**

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¹ The statements regarding the Respondent's conduct are intended to provide the Respondent with notice of the basis of the summary suspension. They are not intended as, and do not necessarily represent a complete description of the evidence, either documentary or testimonial, that may be offered against the Respondent in connection with this matter.

6, 2011, under license number 16674. The Respondent's license expires on October 31, 2027, subject to renewal.

2. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent owned and operated a counseling center located in Baltimore County, Maryland (the "Center").² The Center is a general practice offering counseling to children, adults, seniors, couples and families.

II. Prior Board Discipline

3. On May 28, 2019, the Board summarily suspended the Respondent's license to practice social work in Maryland based on its investigation, which determined that the Respondent violated professional boundaries when he made inappropriate sexual comments to a client. In lieu of issuing charges, the Board and the Respondent entered into Consent Order ("the Consent Order"), dated January 13, 2020.

4. In the Consent Order, the Board found as a matter of fact that from April 2018 to August 2018, the Respondent provided therapy to a female client (the "Client"), then in her 30's, who was a victim of child molestation and domestic violence. During the therapy sessions, the Respondent made highly inappropriate sexual comments about the Client's physical appearance and admittedly told the Client that he was physically attracted to her.

5. In the Consent Order, the Board concluded as a matter of law that the Respondent committed misconduct in the practice of social work, in violation of Health

² For purposes of ensuring confidentiality, health care facility and proper names have been omitted and replaced with generic placeholders. Upon written request, the Administrative Prosecutor will provide the information to the Respondent.

Occ. § 19-311(4), engaged in a course of conduct that was inconsistent with generally accepted professional standards, in violation of Health Occ. § 19-311(5), violated regulations governing the practice of social work, including but not limited to Board regulations governing sexual misconduct and relationship with clients under COMAR 10.42.03 *et seq.*, in violation of § 19-311(6).

6. Pursuant to the Consent Order, the Board suspended the Respondent's license for three (3) years followed by three years of probation with terms and conditions. The Consent Order permitted the Respondent to file a written petition to the Board to reinstate his license after the conclusion of the three (3) year active suspension. On or about March 20, 2023, the Respondent petitioned the Board to reinstate his license to practice Social Work in the State of Maryland and submitted documentation that he fulfilled the terms and conditions during the active suspension of his license.

7. On May 12, 2023, the Board issued an *Order for Termination of Terms and Conditions of Consent Order* (the "2023 Order") in which it lifted the suspension of the Respondent's license and placed him on immediate probation for three (3) years with terms and conditions. Pursuant to the 2023 Order, the Board required the Respondent to obtain a Board-approved supervisor ("the Supervisor") to monitor his practice of social work during the probationary period. The Respondent was required to meet with the Supervisor at least once per month for two hours, and the Supervisor was required to submit quarterly reports to the Board detailing the supervision of the Respondent.

III. Current Board Investigation

A. Case Number: 2018-2551

8. On or about September 22, 2023, the Board received a report from the Supervisor the Board approved as part of the Respondent's probation. The Supervisor reported that the Respondent disclosed to her that he engaged in a sexual relationship with a woman who was staying at a homeless shelter in Philadelphia where the Respondent worked between 1995-1997. The Board closed the complaint without further investigation because the Respondent was not a licensed social worker at the time of sexual relationship with the woman.

9. The Supervisor submitted quarterly and interim reports to the Board regarding the Respondent's progress during their monthly meetings. In the quarterly report from September 23, 2024, the Supervisor noted that the Respondent was routinely late to meetings and missed two appointments in July 2024, including a rescheduled meeting. More importantly, the report noted the Respondent's continued struggle with maintaining professional boundaries in his role as a social worker at work, including four instances poor professional boundaries.

10. In the March 24, 2025, quarterly report, the Supervisor noted that the Respondent continued to struggle with complying with supervision requirements and maintaining professional boundaries at work. The Respondent missed the February 2025 scheduled and rescheduled meetings. The Supervisor stated, "In my professional opinion, Mr. Toplin exhibits a troubling pattern of engaging in inappropriate relationships, both with

vulnerable female clients and now a colleague... Furthermore, Mr. Toplin has made several attempts this quarter to push the boundaries of our professional relationship.”

11. In the March 24, 2025, interim report, the Supervisor notes that the Respondent missed his February and March 2025 supervision meetings without providing notice or explanation.

12. In the August 26, 2025, quarterly report, the Supervisor notes the Respondent’s continued pattern of tardiness, lack of attendance and missed assignments. The report, in part, states that “Mr. Toplin’s conduct during this reporting period is highly concerning and reflects a persistent pattern of noncompliance, poor judgment, and a lack of accountability.” Since August 2023, the Respondent should have attended 24 sessions, but attended only 18, and was late to 14. The report states, “He has not submitted a required supervision agenda since April 2025. Despite repeated discussions, he continues to dismiss the importance of timeliness, preparation and respect for supervisor boundaries, showing no measurable progress over the course of two years.” Furthermore, the Respondent “continues to engage in inappropriate and casual behavior within the supervisory relationship, such as addressing me as “honey” and shouting “[my first name]” across a shared office space and disregarding established boundaries regarding gifts and professional tone. He also has a history of making misogynistic and veiled sexual comments to me, which further reflects a troubling lack of respect for professional boundaries...”

13. The Supervisor noted that the Respondent’s employer terminated him for “excessive leave usage, missed deadlines, and inappropriate boundaries with clients.” The

Respondent also received a complaint for asking to conduct morning prayers in a client's home. The report stated that he sent a text message to his boss stating, "I'm so frustrated. If I had a gun..." The Respondent's boss immediately initiated a welfare check on the Respondent. After his termination, the Respondent reported to returning to work at the Center where he admitted to conducting client evaluations without malpractice insurance. When the Supervisor addressed the violation, the Respondent stated that it was "...not a big deal..."

14. Based on the concerns raised by the Supervisor's reports, the Board ordered that the Respondent undergo a mental health evaluation.

15. The evaluation concluded that due to a health condition, the Respondent is not fit to practice social work as he poses an unacceptable risk to public safety.³

B. Case Number: 2025-3771

16. On or about July 9, 2025, the Board received a complaint from a government agency where the Respondent sought employment in May 2025. The complaint alleges that the Respondent applied for a position with the government agency and submitted a required writing sample that contained confidential client information.

17. Based on the complaint, the Board initiated an investigation of the Respondent under Board Case Number 2025-3771.

³ For confidentiality and privacy reasons, the specific information from the Respondent's mental health evaluation will not be disclosed in this document. This information will be disclosed to the Respondent upon request. The Board reviewed this information prior to the issuance of this Order.

18. As part of its investigation, the Board obtained a copy of the writing sample the Respondent submitted to the government agency. The writing sample was entitled “Family Therapeutic Intervention Summary and Recommendation Regarding Permanency and Reunification,” which the Respondent prepared in his professional capacity. The document included various identifying information about the clients, including minors’ and adults’ names, ages, races, city of residence, mental health diagnoses, and other confidential information.

19. On or about September 25, 2025, the Respondent provided a written response to the complaint under Board Case Number 2025-3771 in which he admitted to disclosing confidential client information in his writing sample. Similarly, on or about October 21, 2025, a Board investigator interviewed the Respondent under oath, and the Respondent admitted to knowingly failing to redact confidential client information in his writing sample to the government agency for employment.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based upon the foregoing Investigative Findings, and pursuant to its authority under Md. Code Ann., State Gov’t § 10-226(c)(2) (2021 Repl. Vol. & 2025 Supp.) and COMAR 10.42.04.07, the Board concludes as a matter of law that there is a substantial likelihood that the Respondent poses a risk of harm to the public health, safety, or welfare, which imperatively requires the Board to take emergency action in summarily suspending the Respondent’s license to practice social work in Maryland.

ORDER

It is, by a majority of the Board, hereby:

ORDERED that pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-226(c)(2) and COMAR 10.42.04.07, the Respondent's license to practice social work in the State of Maryland is hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDED**; and it is further

ORDERED that during the course of the summary suspension of his license, the Respondent shall not practice social work in the State of Maryland; and it is further

ORDERED that in accordance with COMAR 10.42.04.07D, a post-deprivation hearing on the summary suspension of the Respondent's license will be held on **Friday, January 9, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.** before the Board at the Board's offices, located at 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215; and it is further

ORDERED that at the conclusion of the post-deprivation hearing before the Board, the Respondent, if dissatisfied with the result of the hearing, may request within ten (10) calendar days an evidentiary hearing, such hearing to be set within forty-five (45) days of the request; and it is further

ORDERED that this is an Order of the Board, and as such, is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT**. *See* Md. Code Ann., Gen. Provisions § 4-333(b)(6).

12/26/2025

 LCSW-C

Date

Kevin Meenan, LCSW-C
Board Chair
Maryland State Board of Social Work Examiner