

IN THE MATTER OF

*

BEFORE THE STATE

JONATHAN WILLIAMS,
APPLICANT

*

BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK

*

EXAMINERS

*

CASE NUMBER: 2020-2785

* * * * *

PRE-CHARGE CONSENT ORDER

In February 2020, the Maryland State Board of Social Work Examiners (the "Board") received a complaint filed pursuant to the Maryland Social Workers Act (the "Act"), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 19-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2018 Supp.) against Jonathan Williams a licensed master social worker ("LMSW") applicant (the "Applicant"). The complaint alleged that the Applicant engaged in inappropriate sexual behavior.

In lieu of issuing charges against the Applicant and conducting an evidentiary hearing under §§ 19-312 of the Act, the Board decided to resolve this case against the Respondent by way of this Pre-Charge Consent Order. All parties to this Pre-Charge Consent Order agree that the Board would have charged the Respondent with violating the Act, if there were not a pre-charge resolution. The pertinent provisions of the Act are as follows:

Health. Occ. § 19- 302. Qualifications of applicants

(a) To obtain a license, an applicant shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board that the applicant:

...

(3) Is of good moral character[.]

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board finds the following:

1. At all times relevant thereto, the Applicant was not licensed to practice social work in any jurisdiction.

2. On or about March 8, 2019, the Applicant applied to the Board for licensure at the LMSW level.

3. On or about May 2, 2020, during the pendency of the Board's review of the Applicant's application for licensure, a complaint was received against the Applicant.

4. On or about June 22, 2021, the Applicant was notified that he passed the LMSW licensure exam.

5. The Complaint alleged that the Applicant engaged in inappropriate sexual behavior.

6. An investigation conducted by Board staff revealed the following:

a. The Applicant refused to discuss the information in the Complaint or reveal the identity of the victim.

b. The Applicant did respond to questioning regarding the allegation that he was suspended from an undergraduate University, stating that he chose to withdraw after he was caught in the dormitory bedroom of a

female student “hanging out” which was against the University’s policies. Records received from the school confirmed that the Applicant received a “W” for all of his classes for that school semester.

- c. The Applicant was given a psychosexual evaluation which concluded that: (1) the Applicant “purposely invalidated the tests by portraying himself in an overly favorable light, free from common/everyday problems, (2) the Applicant was “defensive” and “is likely to be cognitively inflexible and unwilling to accept feedback or recommendations”, and (3) the Applicant has difficulties expressing his anger and will likely be notably frustrated”;
- d. The evaluation resulted in a finding that the Applicant “does not meet diagnostic criteria for a mental health, sexual, or paraphilic disorder”.
- e. The evaluation recommended that the Applicant participate in psychosexual psychotherapy, receive supervision and monitoring on client boundaries and have no contact with the Complainant.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes that the Applicant did not satisfy Health Occ. § 19-302 (a) (3) (2014 Repl. Vol.).

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 24th day of January 2022, by a majority of the appointed members of the Board, hereby:

ORDERED that the Applicant shall be issued a license to practice social work as a Licensed Master Social Worker ("LMSW") in the State of Maryland; and it is further

ORDERED that upon the issuance of a license to practice as an LMSW, the Applicant shall be immediately placed on PROBATION for a minimum period of at least TWO (2) YEARS, subject to the following conditions:

1. The Applicant's status as a LMSW will be listed in the Board's database and website as being on "Probation";
2. The Applicant shall provide a copy of this Consent Order to any and all employers within five (5) days of commencing employment. The Applicant shall ensure the employer(s) send confirmation of receipt of this Consent Order to the Board;
3. During the probationary period, the Applicant shall enroll in and successfully complete a one-on-one, Board Approved Ethics Tutorial, focusing on the issues that gave rise to this case. After successful completion of the one-on-one ethics tutorial, the instructor shall provide the Board with a written report detailing the Applicant's participation in and completion of the course. The Applicant shall also submit a written statement to the Board what he has

learned from the ethics tutorial. The Applicant may not use any continuing education credits earned through taking the ethics tutorial to fulfill any continuing education requirements that are mandated for licensure renewal in this State;

4. The Applicant shall secure a Board-Approved Supervisor ("Supervisor"), apart from workplace supervision provided at his place(s) of employment. The Supervisor shall supply the Board with quarterly, written reports on the Applicant's practice. The Applicant shall provide the Supervisor with a copy of this Consent Order prior to their initial meeting and shall authorize the Board to release the investigative file to the Supervisor. A negative report from the Supervisor may result in a violation of this Consent Order and further sanctions at the Board's discretion. The Board, in its discretion, may reduce the frequency of the written reports from the Supervisor upon written request from the Supervisor;
5. The Applicant shall obey all state and federal laws; and it is further

ORDERED that no earlier than TWO (2) YEARS from the commencement of the probationary period, the Applicant may submit a written petition to the Board requesting termination of probation. The Board may, in its discretion, grant termination of probation if the Applicant has fully and satisfactorily complied with all of the probationary terms and conditions, including successful completion of the one-on-one ethics tutorial, and there are no pending complaints against the Applicant; and it is further

ORDERED that if the Applicant violates any of the terms and conditions of this Consent Order, the Board, in its discretion, after notice and an opportunity for a show cause hearing before the Board, may impose any sanction which the Board may have imposed in this case, including extending the probationary term, additional conditions of probation, reprimand, suspension, revocation and/or a monetary penalty; and it is further

ORDERED that the Applicant shall practice according to the Maryland Social Work Examiners Act and in accordance with all laws, statutes and regulations; and it is further

ORDERED that the Applicant shall be responsible for all costs incurred in fulfilling the terms and conditions of this Pre Charge Consent Order; and it is further

ORDERED that this Consent Order shall be a PUBLIC DOCUMENT pursuant to Md. Code Ann., General Provisions §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2018 Supp.) and is reportable to any entity to whom the Board is obligated to report.

01/24/2022
Date



Karen Richards, LCSW-C,
Board Chair
Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners


CONSENT OF JONATHAN WILLIAMS, APPLICANT

I, JONATHAN WILLIAMS, APPLICANT acknowledge that I am represented by COUNSEL, and have consulted with my 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 after 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.

1/21/2022
Date



JONATHAN WILLIAMS

NOTARY

STATE OF Maryland
CITY/COUNTY OF Baltimore

I hereby certify that on this 21 day of January, 2022, before me, a Notary Public for the State of Maryland and the City/County aforesaid, personally appeared JONATHAN WILILIAMS and made oath in due form of law that the foregoing Consent Order was his voluntary act and the statements made herein are true and correct.

AS WITNESS my hand and Notarial Seal.

