

IN THE MATTER OF \* BEFORE THE  
Avonne M. Ball, LCSW-C \* MARYLAND STATE BOARD  
Respondent \* OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS  
License Number: 11092 \* Board Case Number: 2019-2633

\* \* \* \* \*

**PRE – CHARGE CONSENT ORDER**

**Background**

Avonne M. Ball, LCSW-C was included in a Post Renewal Continuing Education Audit conducted by the Maryland Board of Social Examiners (“the Board”) on licenses requiring renewal by October 31, 2017. As a condition of continue licensure, licensed social workers are required to obtain forty (40) credit hours of Continuing Education Units (“CEU”) every two years in programs and categories approved by the Board, in accordance with Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 19-309(d)(3)(ii) and COMAR 10.42.06.03. The CEU’s may all be in Category I but may not consist of more than twenty CEU’s in Category II. A minimum of three CEU’s, of the required forty CEU’S shall focus on ethics and professional conduct, including boundary issues.

In lieu of instituting formal proceedings against Mrs. Ball for violations of the Maryland Social Workers Act, Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 19-101 et seq., the Board voted to resolve this matter by way of a Pre-Charge Consent Order. As a result, the Board and Mrs. Ball agreed to resolve this matter as set forth in this Consent Order.

### FINDINGS OF FACT

1. At all times relevant hereto, Mrs. Ball was licensed to practice social work in Maryland, License No. 11092. Mrs. Ball was first licensed by the Board on April 6, 2001, and her license is set to expire on October 31, 2019.
2. All licensees are required to sign a statement on the renewal application attesting to having completed this requirement.
3. On January 4, 2018, Mrs. Ball was mailed a letter from the Association of Social Work Boards ("ASWB") on behalf of the Board stating that he was randomly chosen as part of a Post Renewal Continuing Education Audit. This letter requested that Respondent supply continuing education documentation within thirty days of the letter.
4. On February 5, 2018, Mrs. Ball was mailed a second notice from ASWB "2017 Post Renewal Audit-Problem Notice". A letter dated February 14, 2018 was received by ASWB on February 22, 2018 stating "I must concede that I have no certificates to present for audit".
5. A third letter, "2017 Post Renewal Audit-Problem Notice" was sent on February 28, 2018. Mrs. Ball was informed that the audit will be forward to the Board.
6. The audit revealed that Mrs. Ball held an active license during the time period outlined in this audit and is required to submit all continuing education documentation. In addition, she renewed her LCSW-C license on 10/10/2017 for the period from November 1, 2017 to October 31, 2019.

**CONCLUSION OF LAW**

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes that Mrs. Ball is subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Md. Code Ann. Health Occ. § Health Occ. § 19-311 (6) and COMAR 10.42.06.03.

**ORDER**

Based on an affirmative vote of a majority of the Board, it is this **11<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2019**, hereby:

**ORDERED** that Mrs. Ball's license shall be **REPRIMANDED**; and be it further,

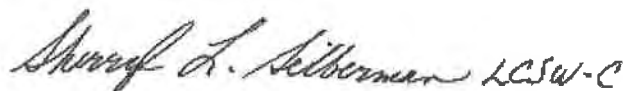
**ORDERED** that Mrs. Ball shall pay a fine of \$1500;

**ORDERED** that Mrs. Ball will automatically be audited during the next licensing renewal cycles.

**ORDERED** that Mrs. Ball will complete the outstanding 40 Category I and Category II CEU's in this audit within 180 days of this Pre Charge Consent Order;

**ORDERED** that this is a formal order of the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners and as such is a public document pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, State Government Article, Section 10-617(h).

10/11/2019



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Date

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Sherryl Silberman, LCSW-C  
Board Chair  
Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners

Received  
SEP 12 2019  
Board of Social  
Work Examiners

**CONSENT**

1. By signing this Consent, I submit to the foregoing Consent Order as a resolution of this matter In lieu of formal charges, which process would have afforded me the right to a full evidentiary hearing. I consent and submit to the foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order as if made after a full evidentiary hearing in which I would have the right to counsel, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my behalf, and to all other substantive and procedural protections provided by law.
2. By signing this Consent, I waive any rights I may have had to contest the findings and determinations contained in this Consent Order.
3. I acknowledge that this is a formal order of the Board and as such is a public document.
4. I acknowledge the legal authority and the jurisdiction of the Board to enter into and enforce this Consent Order.
5. I sign this Consent Order freely and voluntarily and after having had the opportunity to consult with counsel. I fully understand the language, meaning, and effect of this Consent Order.

09/06/2019  
Date

Avonne M. Ball  
Avonne M. Ball, LCSW-C

STATE OF MARYLAND  
COUNTY/CITY OF Baltimore :

I hereby certify that on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of  
September, 2019, before me a Notary Public of the State of Maryland and  
County/City aforesaid, personally appeared Avonne M. Ball, LCSW-C, and made an  
oath in due form that the foregoing Consent was her voluntary act and deed.

**HASSAN ALBADAWI**  
Notary Public  
Baltimore City  
Maryland  
My Commission Expires June 30, 2022

  
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Notary Public

My commission expires: 06/30/2022