

Mary E. Best, LBSW \* BEFORE THE  
Respondent \* MARYLAND STATE BOARD  
License Number: A03280 \* OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS  
\* Board Case Number: 17-2388

\* \* \* \* \*

**PRE – CHARGE CONSENT ORDER**

**Background**

Mary E. Best, LBSW 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, 2018. As a condition of continue licensure, licensed social workers are required to obtain thirty (30) 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 Ms. Best 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 Ms. Best agreed to resolve this matter as set forth in this Consent Order.

### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. At all times relevant hereto, Ms. Best was licensed to practice social work in Maryland, License No. 03280. Mary E. Best, LBSW, was first licensed by the Board on June 20, 1992, and her license was set to expire on October 31, 2018.
2. All licensees are required to sign a statement on the renewal application attesting to having completed this requirement.
3. On January 4, 2016 Ms. Best was mailed a letter from the Association of Social Work Boards (“ASWB”) on behalf of the Board stating that she 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. Ms. Best responded stating that she did not complete the CEU requirements.
4. On February 4, 2016, Ms. Best was mailed a second notice from ASWB “2016 Post Renewal Audit-Problem Notice”.
5. The audit revealed that Ms. Best earned 6 Category I and 11 Category II Continuing Education Units. Therefore, Ms. Best did not meet the continuing education requirements including the ethics 3.0 Category I requirement and failed the audit.

### **CONCLUSION OF LAW**

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes that Ms. Best 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 8<sup>th</sup> day of September 2017, hereby:

**ORDERED** that Respondent's license shall be **REPRIMANDED**;

**ORDERED** Ms. Best shall pay a fine of \$500;

**ORDERED** that Ms. Best will automatically be audited during the next licensing renewal cycles.

**ORDERED** that Ms. Best will complete the outstanding 9.0 Category I CEUs and 4.0 Category I or II CEUs in this audit within 180 days from the date 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, General Provisions Article, Section 4-101 through 4-601 (Repl. Vol. 2014).



September 8, 2017

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Date

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Denise Capaci, LCSW-C  
Board Chair  
Maryland 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.

12/12/17

Date

  
Mary E. Best, LBSW

STATE OF MARYLAND  
COUNTY/CITY OF Baltimore, Md.:

I hereby certify that on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of Dec.,  
2017, before me a Notary Public of the State of Maryland and County/City aforesaid, personally  
appeared Mary E. Best, LBSW, and made an oath in due form that the foregoing Consent was  
her voluntary act and deed.

Anthony W. Smith  
Notary Public

My commission expires: April 12, 2018