

IN THE MATTER OF
TIERA YORK JONES, LGSW

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BEFORE THE STATE DEC 08 2017
BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS
EXAMINERS
Case Number: 2016-2198

Respondent ,

License Number: G12674

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FINAL CONSENT ORDER

The State Board of Social Work Examiners (the "Board") charged Tiera York Jones, LGSW, License Number G12674, (the "Respondent"), under the Maryland Social Workers Act (the "Act"), Md. Health Occ. II Code Ann. ("H.O.") §§ 19-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol.). Specifically, the Board charges the Respondent with violating the following:

H. O. § 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:

- (2) Fraudulently or deceptively uses a license;
- (5) Engages in a course of conduct that is inconsistent with generally accepted professional standards in the practice of social work;
- (6) Violates any provision of this title or regulations governing the practice of social work adopted and published by the Board;

H.O. §19–401. Practicing without a license.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this title, a person may not practice, attempt to practice, or offer to practice social work in this State while representing oneself to be a social worker unless licensed by the Board.

§19–402. Misrepresentation.

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Unless authorized to practice social work under this title, a person may not:

- (1) Represent to the public that the person is a licensed social worker; or
- (2) Use any title, abbreviation, sign, card, or other representation that the person is a licensed social worker, including the use of the words "social worker" or "social work" and the use of the abbreviations "LBSW", "LGSW", "LCSW", or "LCSW-C".

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board finds that:

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was and is licensed to practice as a licensed graduate social worker in the State of Maryland. The Respondent was originally licensed to practice graduate social work in Maryland on or about January 19, 2007.
2. The Respondent's license expires on October 31, 2018.
3. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was employed at a facility ("Facility A") located in Baltimore County, Maryland.¹
4. Facility A provides mental health, substance abuse, and community support services to adults, children, and adolescent clients.
5. In or around August 2015, the Board received an application from the Respondent that included a document entitled Contract for Supervision for LCSW and LCSW-C Licensure ("Contract for Supervision").
6. When the Respondent signed the Contract for Supervision, she agreed to be supervised by a LCSW or LCSW-C employed at Facility A.

¹ The name of Facility A referred to in this document have been omitted to protect confidentiality.

7. Staff at Facility A confirmed that the Respondent held a license to practice graduate social work when she signed the Contract for Supervision in August 2015.

8. The Respondent's license with the Board expired on October 31, 2015, but she continued to perform her social work duties at Facility A.

9. In or about March 10, 2016, the Board received a complaint from the Respondent's supervisor at Facility A.

10. The Respondent's supervisor informed the Board that the human resource department at Facility A discovered on March 2, 2016 that the Respondent's license had expired.

11. When Facility A staff learned that the Respondent's license had expired, she was immediately informed by Facility A staff to stop seeing patients.

12. Upon review of the complaint from Facility A, the Board discovered that the Respondent practiced graduate social work without a license for more than four (4) months beginning on November 1, 2015.²

13. The Respondent's license was reinstated on or about March 15, 2016.

14. The Respondent's conduct as set forth above is a violation of H.O. § 19- 311 (2), (5), and (6).

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes that the Respondent violated H.O. § 19- 311 (2), (5), and (6).

² Board records indicate that the Respondent's license was in non-renewed status from November 1, 2015 thru March 14, 2016.

ORDER

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Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 8th day of

December 2017, a majority of the appointed members of the Board hereby:

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

ORDERED that the Respondent shall take and pass a Board approved twelve (12) credit hour ethics course within six (6) months of the effective date of this Order. Credit hours earn for this course may not use to satisfy any continuing education requirements for license renewal; and it is further

ORDERED that The Respondent shall pay a fine in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1000) within six (6) months of the effective date of this Order; and it is further

ORDERED that if the Respondent violates any of the terms of this Order, the Board, after notice and a show cause hearing, and a determination of violation, may impose any other disciplinary sanctions it deems appropriate, said violation being proved by a preponderance of evidence; and it is further

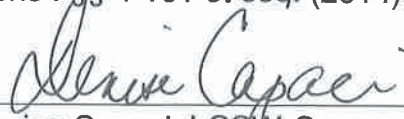
ORDERED that Respondent shall be responsible for all costs incurred under this Order; and it is further

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

ORDERED that the content of this document shall be reported to the National Practitioners Data Bank; and it is further

ORDERED that this document constitutes a formal disciplinary action of the Board of Social Work Examiners is therefore a public document for purposes of public disclosure, pursuant to Md. General Provisions I §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2014).

12/8/2017
Date


Denise Capaci, LCSW-C
Chair
Maryland Board of Social Work

Receiver

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Board of Social
Work Examiners

CONSENT OF TIERA YORK JONES, LGSW

I, Tiera York Jones, LGSW, by affixing my signature hereto, acknowledge that:

1. I am represented by Sigrid C. Haines, Esquire.
2. I am aware that I am entitled to a formal evidentiary hearing before the Board, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. II §19-312 (Repl. Vol. 2014) and Md. Code Ann., State Govt. II §§ 10-201 *et seq.* (Repl. Vol. 20014).
3. I acknowledge the validity and enforceability of this Consent Order as if entered after 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 law. I am waiving those procedural and substantive protections.
4. I voluntarily enter into and consent to the foregoing findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order and agree to abide by the terms and conditions set forth in this Consent Order, as a resolution of the Board's case, based on the findings set forth herein.
5. I waive my right to contest the findings of fact and conclusions of law, and I waive my right to a full evidentiary hearing, and any right to appeal this Consent Order

Received

as set forth in Md. Code Ann, Health Occ. II. § 19-3136 (Rep. Vol. 2014) and Md. Code Ann., State Govt. II §§ 10-201 et seq. (Rep. Vol. 2014).

Board of Health
Work Examiners

6. I acknowledge that by failing to abide by the terms and conditions set forth in this Consent Order, and, following proper procedures, I may be subject to disciplinary action.

7. I sign this consent order, without reservation, as my voluntary act and deed. I acknowledge that I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning, and terms of this Consent Order.

12/8/2017
Date

Tiera York Jones, LGSW
Tiera York Jones, LGSW.

NOTARY

STATE OF Maryland

CITY/COUNTY OF Baltimore

I hereby certify that on this 8 day of December, 2017, before me, a Notary Public for the State of Maryland and the City/County aforesaid, personally appeared Tiera York Jones and made oath in due form of law that the foregoing Consent Order was her voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS my hand and Notarial Seal.



Terry Nickens
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: July 29, 2018

**TERRY NICKENS
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF MARYLAND**
My Commission expires July 29, 2018