

IN THE MATTER OF

\*

BEFORE THE

SABRINA W. ADAMS, LCSW-C

\*

MARYLAND BOARD OF

Respondent

\*

SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

License Number: 07640

\*

Case Number: 08-1355

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**CONSENT ORDER**

**PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND**

On or about May 8, 2009, the Maryland State Board of Social Work Examiners (the "Board") charged **Sabrina W. Adams (the "Respondent") (D.O.B. 06/26/1945), License Number 07640**, with violating certain provisions of the Maryland Social Workers Act (the "Act"), Md. Health Occ. Code Ann. ("H.O.") §§ 19-101 *et seq.* (2005 Repl. Vol.).

Specifically, the Board charged the Respondent with violating the following provisions of § 19-311 of the Act:

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:

- (1) Obtained or attempted to obtain a license for the applicant or licensee or for another through fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation;
- (4) Commits an act of gross negligence, incompetence, or misconduct in the practice of social work;
- (7) Violates any provision of this title or regulations governing the practice of social work adopted and published by the Board; [and]

The Board charged the Respondent with violating the following regulations: Code Md. Regs. ("COMAR") tit. 10, § 42.06.03A, "Continuing Education Requirements."

A. A social worker shall complete a minimum of 40 continuing education units in each 2-year period in order to renew.

B. The required 40 continuing education units:

- (1) Shall consist of at least 20 continuing education units in Category I activities;
- (2) May all be in Category I activities; and
- (3) May not consist of more than 20 continuing education units in Category II activities.

### **BACKGROUND**

On Tuesday, July 14, 2009, the Respondent appeared before the Case Resolution Conference Committee (the "CRC") of the Board. As a result of the CRC, the Respondent agreed to enter into this Consent Order, consisting of Procedural Background, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order, with the terms and conditions set forth below.

### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Board finds the following:

1. At all times relevant to the charges herein, the Respondent was licensed to practice social work in the State of Maryland. The Respondent was originally licensed to practice social work by the Board on February 20, 1993.

2. On or about November 1, 2007, the Respondent submitted a Renewal Application to the Board for the renewal period November 1, 2007, through October 31, 2009. As part of the renewal application, the Respondent signed an attestation affirming

that the information provided on the application and on a Continuing Education Credit Report Form attached to the renewal application was true and correct to the best of her knowledge and belief.

3. The Continuing Education Report Form submitted by the Respondent to the Board as part of her renewal application listed the date and title of a number of continuing education courses that the Respondent had allegedly taken in order to fulfill her continuing education requirements during the prior renewal period, which was November 1, 2005, through October 31, 2007.

4. By letter dated January 18, 2008, mailed to the Respondent's address of record with the Board, the Board's Executive Director notified the Respondent that her name had been chosen to be included in an audit to verify that she had complied with the continuing education requirements necessary for continued licensure. The Board's audit included the period November 1, 2005, through October 31, 2007.

5. The Board's January 18, 2008 letter directed the Respondent to submit documentation of the continuing education credit hours completed during the renewal period to the Board no later than March 21, 2008.

6. By certified letter return receipt requested dated April 4, 2008,<sup>1</sup> the Board's Executive Director informed the Respondent that no documentation verifying compliance with continuing education requirements was received by the Board by March 21, 2008. The letter notified the Respondent that she must immediately submit the documentation

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<sup>1</sup> The Board's April 4, 2008 letter is incorrectly dated April 4, 2007. The certified mail receipt indicates the correct date.

verifying compliance with continuing education requirements along with a letter explaining why she did not respond to the Board's January 18, 2008 letter. The April 4, 2007 letter was returned to the Board as unclaimed.

7. On or about August 18, 2008, the Board's investigator contacted the Respondent regarding her failure to reply to the Board's audit. The Respondent informed the Board's investigator that she failed to receive either the January 2008 letter or the April 2008 letter from the Board. The Respondent further informed the Board's investigator that she would submit documentation to the Board's investigator regarding her compliance with continuing education credits. Despite follow-up messages left by the Board's investigator for the Respondent on August 27, 2008, and September 3, 2008, the Respondent did not provide the Board's investigator with the required documentation.

8. On or about December 9, 2008, the Respondent faxed to the Board seven certificates of attendance at various continuing education courses. A review of the documentation verifying compliance with continuing education requirements submitted by the Respondent on December 9, 2008 reveals that the Respondent completed only seven (7) credit hours in Category I, none of which were devoted to ethics and professional conduct, for the renewal period November 1, 2005, through October 31, 2007.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> The Board requires a minimum 40 credit hours of continuing education during each 2 year renewal period, 20 credit hours of which are required in Category I. COMAR 10.42.06.03B(1). Moreover, the Board requires that a minimum 3 continuing education units under Category I shall have a content area focusing on ethics and professional conduct. COMAR 10.42.06.03C.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes as a matter of law that the Respondent violated Md. Health Occ. Code Ann. §19-311(1), (4), and (7), and COMAR 10.42.06.03A.

### ORDER

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 11, day of September, 2009, by a majority of the Board considering this case:

**ORDERED** that the Respondent's license to practice social work shall be **REPRIMANDED**; and be it further

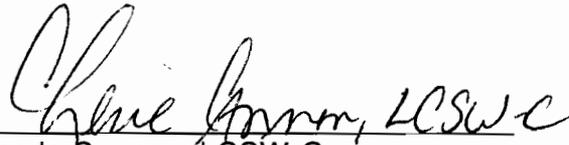
**ORDERED** that the Respondent shall pay a fine in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) within **sixty (60) days** of the date that the Board executes this Consent Order; and be it further

**ORDERED** that the Respondent shall comply with and practice within all statutes and regulations governing the practice of social work in the State of Maryland; and be it further

**ORDERED** that should the Respondent violate any of the terms or conditions of this Consent Order, the Board, after notice, opportunity for a hearing and determination of violation, may impose any other disciplinary sanctions it deems appropriate, including suspension or revocation, said violation being proven by a preponderance of the evidence; and be it further

**ORDERED** that the Respondent shall be responsible for all costs incurred in fulfilling the terms and conditions of this Consent Order; and be it further

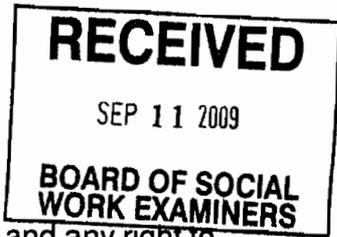
**ORDERED** that this Consent Order is considered a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** pursuant to Md. State Gov't Code Ann. §§ 10-611 et seq. (2004 Repl. Vol.).

  
Cherie Cannon, LCSW-C  
Board Chairperson  
Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners

**CONSENT OF SABRINA W. ADAMS, LCSW-C**

I, Sabrina W. Adams, LCSW-C, License Number 07640, by affixing my signature hereto, acknowledge that:

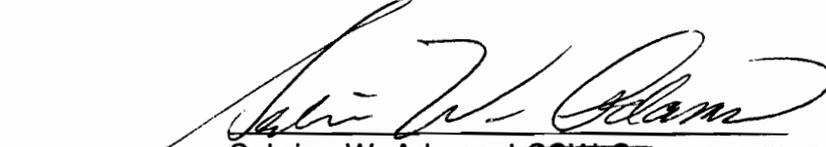
1. I am represented by counsel and have reviewed this Consent Order with my attorney.
2. I am aware that I am entitled to a formal evidentiary hearing before the Board, pursuant to Md. Health Occ. Code Ann. § 19-312 and Md. St. Gov't Code Ann. §§ 10-201 *et seq.*
3. I acknowledge the validity and enforceability of this Consent Order as if entered after a formal evidentiary hearing in which I would have the right to counsel, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my own behalf, and to all other procedural and substantive protections to which I am entitled by law. I am waiving those procedural and substantive protections.
4. I voluntarily enter into the foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order and agree to abide by the terms and conditions set-forth herein as a resolution of the Charges against me. I waive any right to contest the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of



Law, and I waive my right to a full evidentiary hearing, as set forth above, and any right to appeal this Consent Order or any adverse ruling of the Board that might have followed any such hearing.

5. I acknowledge that by failing to abide by the conditions set forth in this Consent Order, I may be subject to disciplinary actions, which may include revocation of my license to practice social work.

6. I sign this Consent Order voluntarily, without reservation, and I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning and terms of this Consent Order.

9/3/09  
Date  
  
Sabrina W. Adams, ~~EGSW-C~~ LICSW

~~STATE OF MARYLAND~~ NJ  
CITY/COUNTY OF Cape May County

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 2009, before me, Wanda V Randle, a Notary Public of the foregoing State and (City/County),  
(Print Name)  
personally appeared Sabrina W. Adams, License Number 07640, and made oath in due form of law that signing the foregoing Consent Order was her voluntary act and deed, and the statements made herein are true and correct.

AS WITNESSETH my hand and notarial seal,  
  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 9/4/2013

