

IN THE MATTER OF * BEFORE THE
CLAUDELLE CLARKE , LGSW * MARYLAND STATE BOARD
Respondent * OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS
License Number: 16193 * Board Case Number: 13-1868
* * * * *

PRE-CHARGE CONSENT ORDER

Background

Claudelle Clarke was included in a Continuing Education Audit conducted by the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners (“the Board”) on licenses requiring renewal by October 31, 2012. As a condition of continued 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 CEUs may all be in Category I but may not consist of more than twenty CEUs in Category II. A minimum of three CEUs, of the required forty CEUs, shall focus on ethics and professional conduct, including boundary issues. See *id.*

The audit revealed that Ms. Clarke has not completed the required continuing education, as she still needs to complete 14.5 Category I CEUs, including the ethics requirement.

In lieu of instituting formal proceedings against Ms. Clarke 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. Clarke have agreed to resolve this matter as set forth in this Consent Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. At all times relevant hereto, Ms. Clarke was licensed to practice graduate social work in Maryland, License No. 16193. Ms. Clarke was first licensed by the Board on July 16, 2010, and her license is set to expire on October 31, 2014.
2. All licensees are required to sign a statement on the renewal application attesting to having completed this requirement. See *id.*
3. Ms. Clarke was mailed a notice from the Association of Social Work Boards (“ASWB”) on behalf of the Board stating that she was randomly chosen as part of a continuing education audit.
4. A final notice was sent out on April 15, 2013 which stated that Respondent was not fully compliant with the Board’s Continuing Education and requirements, and that the matter was being referred to the Board’s compliance unit.
5. A review of Ms. Clarke CEU certificates revealed that an additional 14.5 Category I CEUs, including the ethics requirement were not provided, and consequently, she has not met the required amount of CEUs.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes that Ms. Clarke is subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 19-311 (4), (5), (6), (7), (13), and COMAR 10.42.06.03.

ORDER

Based on an affirmative vote of a majority of the Board, it is this 12th day of July, 2013, hereby:

ORDERED that Ms. Clarke's license shall be REPRIMANDED; and be it further,

ORDERED that Ms. Clarke's shall pay a fine in the amount of \$1,000.00, payable to the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners, within ninety (90) days of the date of the Order; and be it further,

ORDERED that failure to pay in full the above fine within ninety (90) days of the date of this Order shall be considered a violation of this Order, and after notice and opportunity for a show cause hearing shall subject Ms. Clarke to further discipline such as suspension, revocation, or further fines based on the violations cited in this Order; and be it further,

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).

7/12/13
Date

JML
Judith M. Levy, LCSW-C
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.

3/19/13
Date



Claudelle Clarke, LGSW-C



RUDOLPH LLEWELYN REID
NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF MARYLAND
My Commission Expires March 30, 2014

STATE OF MARYLAND
COUNTY/CITY OF CHARLES :

I hereby certify that on this 18th day of AUGUST, 2013,
before me, a Notary Public of the State of Maryland and County/city aforesaid, personally
appeared Claudelle Clarke, and made an oath in due form that the foregoing Consent was her
voluntary act and deed.



Notary Public
My commission expires: 03/30/2014

RUDOLPH LLEWELYN REID
NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF MARYLAND
My Commission Expires March 30, 2014