IN THE MATTER OF	*	**BEFORE THE**
LACHANDRA COLBERT, LGSW	*	**MARYLAND BOARD OF**
Respondent	*	**SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS**
License Number: G10593	*	**Case Number: 07-1191**

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FINAL ORDER OF REVOCATION OF A LICENSE TO PRACTICE GRADUATE SOCIAL WORK UNDER THE MARYLAND SOCIAL WORKERS ACT

On February 8, 2008, the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners (the "Board"), notified **LaChandra Colbert (the "Respondent") (D.O.B. 01/03/73), License Number G10593**, of its intent to revoke her license to practice graduate social work under the Maryland Social Workers Act (the "Act"), Md. Health Occ. Code Ann. ("H.O.") §§ 19-301 *et seq.* (2005 Repl. Vol.).

The pertinent provision of § 19-311 of the Act provides:

> Subject to the hearing provisions of § 19-312 of this subtitle, the Board may deny 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;
>
> (5) Knowingly violates any provision of this title;
>
> (7) Violates any provision of this title or regulations governing the practice of social work adopted and published by the Board; [and]

The pertinent provision of § 19-308 of the Act provides:

(d) *Applications for renewal.* – Before the license expires, the licensee

periodically may renew it for an additional 2-year term, if the licensee:

* * *

(2) Pays to the Board the appropriate renewal fee specified in this subtitle; and

(3) Submits to the Board:

* * *

(ii) Satisfactory evidence of compliance with any continuing education requirement set under this section for license renewal.

The Board charged the Respondent with violating the following regulations: Code Md. Regs. ("COMAR") tit. 10 § 42.01.16, "Renewal of License."

* * *

G. If a licensee fails to renew a license and does not file an application for renewal with payment of the appropriate fees within 60 days after expiration of the license, the licensee and the licensee's right to practice:

(1) Shall terminate; and

(2) May not be reinstated except by application for reinstatement provided in regulation .17 of this chapter.

H. Change of Address

(1) A licensee shall notify the Board within 60 days of a change in the licensee's address or before August 1 of the licensee's renewal year, whichever occurs first, to ensure that the notice of renewal and renewed license are properly addressed.

The Board also charged the Respondent with violating the following regulations: Code Md. Regs. ("COMAR") tit. 10 § 42.06.08, "Reporting, Documenting, and Auditing Compliance with Continuing Education Requirements."

* * *

C. On request by the Board, a social worker shall provide full documentation of the credit hours completed in accordance with the requirements of §§D and E of this regulation.

In its Notice, the Board informed the Respondent that she had the opportunity to request a hearing before the Board by submitting a request in writing to the Board's Executive Director within thirty days of the date of the Notice. More than thirty days have elapsed since February 8, 2008, and the Respondent has not requested a hearing.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board makes the following findings of fact:

1. At all times relevant to these charges, the Respondent was a graduate social worker licensed in the State of Maryland. The Respondent was originally licensed in the State of Maryland on or about December 26, 2002.

2. On or about November 6, 2006, the Board received the Respondent's renewal application along with a check made payable to the Board in the amount of one-hundred thirty four dollars and fifty cents ($134.50) for the license renewal fee. The check was dated October 30, 2006, and noted the Respondent's license number on the reference line.

3. Upon presentment for payment, the Respondent's check dated October 30, 2006, was returned to the Board by the Respondent's bank due to insufficient funds.

4. By letter dated December 6, 2006, the Board's Executive Director informed the Respondent that her renewal check had been returned for insufficient funds and that she would need to submit either a certified check or money order to the Board in the amount of one-hundred fifty nine dollars and fifty cents ($159.50) to cover the original renewal fee and a twenty-five dollar ($25.00)

returned check fee.

5. On or about December 28, 2006, the Director of the Board's Administrative Unit telephoned the Respondent at the number listed in her licensing file and left a message reminding the Respondent that she needed to submit a check for her renewal fee plus the returned check fee.

6. By letter dated January 5, 2007 to the Respondent's address of record with the Board, the Board's Executive Director again notified the Respondent that she was required to submit a check to the Board to cover her renewal fee and the returned check fee. The Board's Executive Director indicated in the letter that the Respondent would be given until February 5, 2007, to submit the funds. After February 5, 2007, the letter stated that the matter would be referred to the Central Collections Unit of the State of Maryland for collection.

7. By letter dated February 6, 2007, sent via certified mail to the Respondent's address of record with the Board, the Board's Executive Director informed the Respondent that the matter would be referred to the Central Collection Unit unless payment was received by the Board on or before February 20, 2007. The letter was returned to the Board marked undeliverable.

8. The Respondent failed to submit payment to the Board for her renewal fee or the returned check fee. On or about March 21, 2007, the Board referred the matter to the Central Collections Unit of the State of Maryland.

9. Previously, in or about January 2007, the Board undertook an audit of licensees whose licenses were renewed in October 2006. The audit included verification of the required continuing education credits submitted by licensees as

part of their renewal applications.

10. By letter dated January 23, 2007, the Respondent was notified that her name had been selected as part of the Board's audit. The letter further informed the Respondent that she was required to submit documentation of the continuing education credit hours completed as set forth on her renewal application in accordance with COMAR 10.42.06.08. The documentation was required to be submitted to the Board no later than March 26, 2007.

11. On or about March 15, 2007, the Director of the Board's Administrative Unit contacted the Respondent's place of employment and left a message for the Respondent to telephone the Board. On or about March 16, 2007, the Respondent returned the telephone call and spoke with the Director of the Board's Administrative Unit. The Respondent stated during the telephone call that she would send the Board a check for the money owed and a change of address form.

12. To date, the Respondent failed to submit proof of documentation related to the Board's audit, a check for money owed the Board, or a change of address form.

13. As a result of the events set forth above, the Board referred the matter to its investigative unit. In or about August 2007, the Board's investigator contacted the owner of the property for the Respondent's address of record with the Board. The owner of the property informed the Board's investigator that the Respondent had been evicted from the property in February 2007, and that the owner of the property did not know the Respondent's current whereabouts.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes as a matter of law that the Respondent violated H.O. § 19-311(1), (4), (5), and (7), and COMAR 10.42.01.16 and 10.42.06.08.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 9 day of May, 2008, by a majority of the full authorized membership of the Board considering this case:

ORDERED that the Respondent's license to practice graduate social work in the State of Maryland is hereby **REVOKED.**

9 May 08
Date

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