

IN THE MATTER OF	*	BEFORE THE STATE
FAITH HIMBERGER, LCSW-C	*	BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
Respondent	*	EXAMINERS
License Number: 00584	*	Case No. 12-1797
* * * * *	*	* * * * *

ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION

Pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Govt. §10-226 (c) (2009 Repl. Vol.), the Maryland Social Workers Act (the "Act"), Md. Code Ann., Health Occupations ("Health Occ.") §§ 19-101 *et seq.* (2009 Repl. Vol.), and Code Md. Regs. tit. 10, § 42.04.07, the State Board of Social Work Examiners (the "Board") hereby summarily suspends the social work license of **FAITH HIMBERGER, LCSW-C (the "Respondent") (D.O.B. 07/20/1947), License Number 00584**. This Order is based on the following investigative findings, which the Board has reason to believe are true:¹

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. At all times relevant, the Respondent was and is licensed to practice clinical social work in the State of Maryland. The Respondent was initially licensed on January 24, 1977. Her license is currently active and is scheduled to expire on October 31, 2014.

2. At all times relevant, the Respondent was employed as a social worker in private practice with three other social workers in Silver Spring, Maryland

¹ The statements regarding the Respondent's conduct are only intended to provide the Respondent with notice of the basis of the suspension. They are not intended as, and do not necessarily represent a completed description of the evidence, either documentary or testimonial, to be offered against the Respondent in this matter.

3. On or about July 24, 2012, the Board received a complaint from the Respondent's three colleagues (the "Complainants") expressing their concern regarding the Respondent's unexplained absences from work resulting in scheduled clients not receiving services.

4. Thereafter, the Board initiated an investigation.

5. According to the Complainants, the Respondent was absent approximately 31 times between January 31, 2012 and July 23, 2012. On many of those occasions, the Respondent failed to notify her colleagues and/or her scheduled clients of her absence.

6. The Respondent has failed to make emergency coverage arrangements for her clients, resulting in her clients not receiving necessary services.

7. The Complainants further stated that the Respondent appeared to have difficulty following what was being discussed at a weekly peer group meeting. Also, the Respondent frequently failed to attend the peer group meetings. As a result, the Complainants asked the Respondent not to attend the meetings.

8. Medical records from hospitalizations in November 2011 and May 2012 indicate that the Respondent has a substance abuse problem.

9. On or about January 15, 2013, the Complainants sent a letter to the Board indicating that the Respondent "continues to demonstrate lack of professional behavior by not coming to the practice and not letting her clients know when she is not here." The Complainants further stated that the Respondent's clients "are showing a range of upset and some have reported being stood up numerous times."

10. In her written response to the complaint, the Respondent stated that a number of "personal losses" have contributed to her conduct. Further, she denied abusing alcohol or drugs.

11. On or about December 7, 2012, the Board requested that the Respondent submit to a substance abuse evaluation. To date, the Respondent has not cooperated with the Board's request.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Accordingly, the Board concludes that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action in this case, pursuant to Md. State Gov't Code Ann. § 10-226(c)(2)(i) (2009 Repl. Vol. and 2012 Supp.).

ORDER

Based on the foregoing, it is this 19th day of March 2013, by a majority vote of a quorum of the Board, hereby:

ORDERED that pursuant to the authority vested by Md. State Gov't Code Ann., § 10-226(c)(2), the Respondent's license to practice social work in Maryland, is hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDED**; and be it further

ORDERED that the Respondent must request a post-deprivation show cause hearing in writing **WITHIN 30 DAYS** of his receipt of this notice. The written request should be made to: James Merrow, Executive Director, State Board of Social Work Examiners, Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215 with copies mailed to: Tracee Orlove Fruman, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, 300 West Preston Street, Suite 207, Baltimore, Maryland 21201, and Ari Elbaum, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the

Attorney General, 300 West Preston Street, Suite 302, Baltimore, Maryland 21201; and
be it further

ORDERED that if the Respondent fails to request a post-deprivation show cause hearing, the Respondent's license will remain suspended; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent shall immediately turn over to the Board all copies of her license to practice social work issued by the Board; and be it further

ORDERED that this document constitutes an Order of the Board and is therefore a public document for purposes of public disclosure, as required by Md. State Gov't Code Ann. § 10-617(h) (2009 Repl. Vol. and 2012 Supp.).

3/19/13
Date

Mark Lannon, LCSW-C/DR
Mark Lannon, LCSW-C, Board Vice Chair
State Board of Social Work Examiners