

IN THE MATTER OF	*	BEFORE THE STATE
NICHOLA RENEE JESSEE, LSWA	*	BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
LICENSE NUMBER: A04690	*	EXAMINERS
RESPONDENT	*	CASE NUMBER: 974
* * * * *	*	* * * * *

**FINAL ORDER OF REVOCATION OF LICENSE TO PRACTICE SOCIAL WORK**

The State Board of Social Work Examiners (“the Board”) notified Nichola Renee Jessee, LSWA (“the Respondent”), d.o.b. 06/13/1975, license number: A04690, of the Board’s intent to **REVOKE** her license to practice social work under the Maryland Social Work Act (“the Act”), Md. Health Occ. Code Ann. (“H.O.”) §§ 19-101 *et seq.* (2005 Repl. Vol. and 2006 Supp.). The pertinent provisions state:

**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:

- (4) Commits any act of gross negligence, incompetence, or misconduct in the practice of social work;
- (5) Knowingly violates any provision of this title;
- (6) Engages in a course of conduct that is inconsistent with generally accepted professional standards 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;
- (12) Knowingly makes or files a false report or record in the practice of social work;

- (13) Knowingly fails to file or record any report as required by law, willfully impedes or obstructs the filing or recording of the report, or induces another to fail to file the report.

**Code Md. Regs. tit. 10, § 42.03 Code of Ethics.**

.03 General Conduct.

A. The licensee shall:

- (5) Maintain documentation in the client's record which:

- (b) Accurately reflects the services provided, including treatment plans, treatment goals, and progress notes;

B. In the capacity of or identity as a licensed social worker, the licensee may not:

- (1) Participate or condone dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.

**FINDINGS OF FACT<sup>1</sup>**

The Board finds that::

1. At all times relevant herein, the Respondent was licensed to practice social work in the State of Maryland, having been issued license number A04690, on November 7, 2000.

2. At all times relevant herein, the Respondent was employed as a family services caseworker, by the Frederick County Department of Social Services ("DSS"), located in Frederick, Maryland.

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<sup>1</sup> The statements herein are intended to provide the Respondent with notice of the alleged charges. They are not intended as, and do not necessarily represent, a complete description of the evidence, either documentary or testimonial, to be offered against the Respondent.

3. The Respondent worked at DSS from February 1999 until May 2005.
4. On or about July 10, 2004, DSS received a report of suspected child abuse or neglect from the Frederick City Police Department ("FCPD").
5. The Respondent was the DSS child protective services worker who handled FCPD's report of suspected child abuse or neglect.
6. An officer from the FCPD informed the Respondent that a child approximately eighteen months old (herein after "Child A") had fallen out a second floor apartment window.<sup>2</sup>
7. Approximately nine (9) months after receiving the July 10, 2004 report of suspected child abuse or neglect of Child A, the Respondent submitted a 181 Child Neglect-Report Disposition ("181 Report") to her supervisors.<sup>3</sup>
8. When the Respondent's supervisor reviewed the Respondent's 181 Report on Child A, the Respondent's supervisors noticed discrepancies.
9. The Respondent stated in the 181 Report involving Child A:

"This worker responded to Frederick Memorial Hospital. This worker observed [Child A's name was deleted]. His [the name of Child A's maternal aunt was deleted] accompanied him to the hospital. [Child A's name deleted] was very shaken up, but there were no visible injuries to him. Fredrick Memorial Hospital transferred [Child A's name was deleted] to Washington County Trauma Unit for precautionary purposes."
10. The Respondent also stated in the 181 Report on Child A:

"On 7/12/04 this worker spoke with [Child A's mother]. She stated that she was at a wedding and once she was notified of the incident, she responded to Washington County Hospital. She stated that [Child A] was discharged with no injuries."

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<sup>2</sup> At the time of Child A's accident, Child A was residing with Child A's maternal aunt. The names of Child A and Child A's family members are confidential and can not be disclosed without a court order.

<sup>3</sup> The report is required under Md. Family Law Art. Code Ann. 5-706.

11. On or about May 5, 2005, the Respondent admitted to her supervisors that she had not spoken to or visited Child A's aunt or Child A mother about Child A's July 10, 2004 fall from a second floor of an apartment window.

12. Child A's maternal aunt told DSS that she had never met with or spoken to the Respondent about the July 2004 incident involving Child A.

13. The Respondent's supervisors also noticed that the 181 Report of the July 10, 2004 incident involving Child A did not show that the Respondent completed (1) safety assessments on other children residing in home where Child A had fallen from the window and (2) safety plans with the caretaker for Child A and the other children who were present in the home where Child A had fallen from the window.

14. The Respondent's conduct, as set forth above, violates Md. Health Occ. Code Ann. 19-311 (4), (5), (6), (7), (12), (13), and Code Md. Regs. tit. 10, § 42.03.03 A (5) (b), and B (1).

### CONCLUSIONS

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes that the Respondent violated Md. Health Occ. Code Ann. § 19-311(4), (5), (6), (7), (12), (13), and Code Md. Regs. tit. 10, § 42.03.03 A (5) (b), and B (1).

### ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 7<sup>th</sup> day of December 2007, that the majority of the Board hereby:

**ORDERED** that the license issued to Nichola Renee Jessee to practice social work is hereby **REVOKED**; and it is further

**ORDERED** that for purposes of public disclosure and as permitted by Md. State Govt. Code Ann. § 10-617(h) (2004 Repl. Vol. and 2006 Supp.), this document consists of the contents of the foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order, and is reportable to any entity to whom the Board is obligated to report; and be it further

**ORDERED** that this Order is a public document pursuant to Md. State Govt. Code Ann. §§ 10-601 *et seq.* (2004 Repl. Vol.).

12-7-07

Date

Yvonne M. Perret, LCSW-C  
Yvonne M. Perret, LCSW-C, Board Chair  
Board of Social Work Examiners

**NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL**

Pursuant to Md. Health Occ. Code Ann. §19-315 (2005 Repl. Vol.), you have a right to take a direct judicial appeal. A Petition for Judicial Review must be filed within thirty (30) days of your receipt of this Order and shall be made as provided for judicial review of a final decision in the Md. State Govt. Code Ann. §§ 10-201 *et seq.* (2004 Repl. Vol. and 2006 Supp.), and Title 7, Chapter 200 of the Maryland Rules.