

IN THE MATTER OF \* BEFORE THE  
Debra Ellen King, LBSW \* MARYLAND STATE BOARD  
Respondent \* OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS  
License Number: A05003 \* Board Case Number 2011-1688

\* \* \* \* \*

**FINAL DECISION AND ORDER**

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

On November 4, 2011, the Maryland State Board of Social Work Examiners (the "Board") voted to offer a Pre-Charge Consent Order to Debra Ellen King, LBSW (the "Respondent"), License Number A05003, in lieu of issuing Charges for violations of the Maryland Social Workers Act (the "Act"), Md. Health Occ. Code Ann. ("H.O."), §19-101 et seq. (2009 Repl. Vol., 2011 Supp). The Respondent signed the Pre-Charge Consent Order on February 11, 2012. (Attachment A)

The Board sent notice of a violation of the Pre-Charge Consent Order on July 10, 2013 to the Respondent stating that the Respondent failed to pay in full the monetary fine assessed by the Board of \$1,000.00. Charges for violating the Consent Order were sent to the Respondent by regular and certified mail on February 14, 2014 at the Respondent's address of record with the Board. This notice included a scheduled date of a case resolution conference ("CRC") on March 6, 2014. The Charges were not returned by mail. The Respondent did not confirm her attendance at the CRC, and as such, the CRC was canceled. In addition, on August 11, 2014, the Administrative Prosecutor contacted Respondent by certified mail to inform her of the next steps in the proceeding and that a show cause hearing was scheduled for September 12, 2014. A Show Cause hearing was held on September 12, 2014, as scheduled, and the Respondent failed to

appear. Subsequent to the Show Cause hearing, the Board voted to revoke the license of the Respondent on September 12, 2014.

### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Board makes the following findings of fact:

1. The Respondent was initially licensed to practice social work in the State of Maryland in January of 2004.
2. Respondent was given an extension by the Board at the time of her license renewal in order for the Respondent to complete her Continuing Education Unit (CEU) requirements.
3. Respondent allowed her license to expire.
4. Respondent's license expired on May 1, 2009 and the license reinstated by the Board effective August 4, 2011.
5. The Board's investigation revealed that, from May 1, 2009 through September 22, 2010, the respondent was employed by FutureCare, in the position of "Director of Social Service", a position which required a social work license.
6. The Board's investigation also revealed that from September of 2010 through August 4, 2011, the Respondent was employed by Ridgeway Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in the position of social worker.
7. Respondent practiced social work without a license in Maryland for a time period exceeding 24 months.
8. The Respondent signed a Pre-Charge Consent Order with the Board on February 2, 2012, appended to this Order as Attachment A.
9. The Respondent violated the terms of the Consent Order by failing to pay the required

\$1,000.00 monetary fine within sixty (60) days of the Consent Order, as required by the Consent Order.

10. Disciplinary Charges were issued against the Respondent on February 14, 2014.

11. Ms. King was duly notified of the Board's investigation, of the charges for violation of the Consent Order, of the CRC and of the show cause hearing scheduled in her case.

12. Ms. King failed to respond to the notice of Charges and failed to appear in person or through counsel for the CRC scheduled on October 31, 2013. Ms. King also failed to appear at the Show Cause hearing on September 12, 2014.

13. Under the Pre-Charge Consent Order, the Board found that Ms. King violated H.O. §19-401(a), which provides that, a person may not practice, attempt to practice, or offer to practice social work in this State while representing oneself to be a social worker unless licensed by the Board. Additionally, the Board found Ms. King to have violated H. O. § 19-311 (4), (5), (6), and (7), as well as § 19-301(a).

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes that the Respondent violated H.O. § 19-301(a), §19-311 (4), (5), (6), and (7) and (12), and § 19-401(a).

(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 inconsistent with generally 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.

§ 19-301

(a) In general. -- Except as otherwise provided in this title, an individual shall be:

(1) Licensed by the Board before the individual may practice social work in this State while representing oneself as a social worker; or

(2) Licensed as a certified social worker-clinical before the individual may practice clinical social work in this State.

§ 19-401

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this title, a person may not practice, attempt to practice, or offer to practice social work in this State while representing oneself to be a social worker unless licensed by the Board.

(b) Clinical social work. -- Except as otherwise provided in this title, a person may not practice, attempt to practice, or offer to practice clinical social work in this State unless licensed by the Board as a certified social worker-clinical.

**ORDER**

It is hereby **ORDERED** by the Maryland State Board of Social Work Examiners that Debra Ellen King's license to practice social work in the State of Maryland be **REVOKED**; and it is further

**ORDERED** that this is a Final Decision and Order of the Board, and as such, is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** pursuant to Md. State Gov't Code Ann. § 10-611 *et seq* (Repl. Vol. 2009).

3/13/15  
Date

  
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Mark Lannon, LCSW-C, Board Chair  
Maryland State Board of Social Work Examiners