

IN THE MATTER OF

*

BEFORE THE STATE

SHIRLEY E. SINGER, LGSW

*

BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK

LICENSE NUMBER: G07430

*

EXAMINERS

RESPONDENT

*

CASE NUMBER: 06-1091

* * * * *

CONSENT ORDER

The State Board of Social Work Examiners (“the Board”) charged Shirley E. Singer, LGSW (“the Respondent”), d.o.b. 11/23/1946, license number: G07430, with violating certain provisions of the under the Maryland Social Work Act (“the Act”), Md. Health Occ. Code Ann. (“H.O.”) §§ 19-101 *et seq.* (Repl. Vol. 2005 and Supp. 2007.

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:

- (10) Is disciplined by a licensing or disciplinary authority of any state, country, branch of the armed services, or the Veterans’ Administration for an act that would be grounds for disciplinary action under this section.

The underlying grounds for disciplinary action under H.O. § 19-311 (10)

are as follows:

- (4) Commits any act of gross negligence, incompetence, or misconduct in the practice of social work;
- (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.

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

.03 General Conduct.

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; and
- (2) Misrepresent professional qualifications, education, experience, or affiliation[;].

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board bases its intent to take reciprocal disciplinary action against the Respondent's license on the following facts that the Board has cause to believe are true:

- 1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was licensed to practice social work in the State of Maryland, having been issued license number: G07430 on December 12, 1996.
- 2. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was licensed to practice social work in the District of Columbia under license number: LG 101544.¹
- 3. On or about November 9, 2006, the Board received the Respondent's application for renewal of her license to practice social work.
- 4. On her application for renewal the Respondent answered "yes" to

¹ The Respondent is also licensed in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

question 2A:

“Has any state Licensing or Disciplinary Board, or comparable body in the Armed Services denied your application for licensure, reinstatement or renewal, or taken any action against your license, including but not limited to reprimand, suspension, or revocation?”

5. On her application for renewal the Respondent answered “yes” to

question 2B:

“Have you surrendered or failed to renew a license in any state?”

6. The Respondent also included with her application for renewal, a copy of the consent order that the Respondent entered into with the District of Columbia Board of Social Work.

7. Subsequent investigation by the Board revealed the following:

**DISCIPLINARY ACTION TAKEN BY THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK**

8. On July 25, 2005 and February 27, 2006, the District of Columbia Board of Social Work (“the D.C. Board”) issued a notice of intent to take disciplinary action against the Respondent’s license to practice social work and an amended notice of intent to take disciplinary action against the Respondent’s license to practice social work (a copy of the notice of intent to take disciplinary action and the amended notice of Intent to take disciplinary action *In the Matter of Shirley Singer, LGSW* dated July 12, 2005 and February 27, 2006, respectively, are attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit A).

9. After a review of the evidence, the D.C. Board concluded that the Respondent misrepresented herself as a licensed independent clinical social worker (L.I.C.S.W.), when the Respondent was only a licensed graduate social worker (LGSW)

and filed a false statement with the Board when she knew or should have known that it was false and misleading.

10. The Respondent wrote in three letters of recommendations to the Catholic Charities that she was a LICSW, when she held only a graduate social work license.

11. Further, the Respondent falsely stated on her renewal application to the District of Columbia Department of Health that she was not currently being investigated by the D. C. Board.

12. The District of Columbia had served the Respondent with a notice of intent to take disciplinary action dated July 12, 2005, before the Respondent submitted her renewal application.

13. On or about May 1, 2006, the Respondent entered into a consent order with the D.C. Board (a copy of the consent order *In the Matter of Shirley Singer, LGSW*, dated May 1, 2006, is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit C).

14. The D. C. Board suspended the Respondent's license for a period of six (6) months with all but one month stayed. The Respondent was also ordered to comply with following terms and conditions:

- a. Serve a probationary period of two (2) years;
- b. Complete six (6) hours of continuing education in ethics;
- c. Submission of quarterly reports from the Respondent's supervisors.

15. The disciplinary action taken by the D. C. Board constitutes a violation of H. O. § 19-311 (10), disciplinary action by a licensing or disciplinary authority of any state, country, or branch of armed services, or the Veterans' Administration for any act

that would be grounds for disciplinary action under H.O. §19 311(4), (6), (7), (12), and Code Md. Regs. tit. 10, § 42.03.03 B (1) and (2).

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes as a matter of law that the Respondent violated Md. Health Occ. Code Ann § 19-311 (10) for acts that would be grounds for disciplinary action under Md. Health Occ. Code Ann § 19-311 (4), (6), (7), (12), and Code Md. Regs. tit. 10, § 42.03.03 B (1) and (2).

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 13th day of December 2008, that the majority of the full authorized membership of the Board hereby:

ORDERED that the Respondent's license to practice social work in Maryland is hereby **SUSPENDED** for a period of **thirty (30) days**; and it is further

ORDERED that said suspension shall begin on **December 14, 2008**; and it is further

ORDERED that this Order shall be effective on the date it is signed by the Board; and it is further

ORDERED that, Respondent shall have delivered to the Board, **on or before December 14, 2008**, the display license and wallet-sized license to practice social work in the State of Maryland previously issued by the Board; and it is further

ORDERED that, **prior to the end of her suspension**, the Respondent shall submit a written plan of supervision to the Board identifying a Board-approved supervisor who will monitor the Respondent's practice for a period of at least one (1)

year after reinstatement of her license to practice social work while Respondent is on probation. The Respondent shall ensure that her supervisor submits quarterly reports to the Board, and the first quarterly report shall be due within three (3) months of the date of reinstatement; and it is further

ORDERED that, following the period of her active suspension, the Respondent shall be placed on **PROBATION** for a period of **one (1) year**; and it is further

ORDERED that, while on probation, Respondent shall enroll in and successfully complete a Board-approved, one-on-one, ethics tutorial, of at least 12 weeks in duration. The Respondent shall submit the course description AND/OR syllabus to the Board prior to enrolling in the course for Board pre-approval. The Board reserves the right to reject the course submitted for fulfillment of this condition and may request additional information regarding the course. At the conclusion of the tutorial, the Respondent shall submit an essay to the Board that addresses professional ethics in social work, as well as integrity, honesty, personal character and the specific issues of this case. The course work shall be in addition to any continuing education requirements for Board licensure; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent shall comply with and practice within all statutes and regulations governing the practice of social work in the State of Maryland; and it is further

ORDERED that any violation of the terms and conditions herein shall constitute a violation of probation and of this Order; and it is further

ORDERED that at the end of Respondent's probationary period, the Respondent shall file a written petition to the Board for termination of the probationary status and the

removal of any conditions or restrictions that resulted from this disciplinary action, provided that she has fulfilled all the terms and conditions set forth herein, is not in violation of this Order, and there are no outstanding complaints against the Respondent; and it is further

ORDERED that if the Respondent fails to make any such petition, then the probationary period status shall continue indefinitely, subject to the conditions set forth in this Order; and it is further

ORDERED that, if the Board determines that the terms or conditions of this Order have not been successfully completed, the Board may modify one or more terms or conditions upon which the Respondent was placed on probation, upon notice to the Respondent; and it is further

ORDERED that if the Respondent violates any of the terms of this Order, the Board, after notice and a hearing, and a determination of violation, may impose any other disciplinary sanctions it deems appropriate, said violation being proved by a preponderance of evidence; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent shall be responsible for all costs incurred under this Order; and it is further

ORDERED that the effective date of this Order is the date that this Order is signed by the Board; and it is further

ORDERED that, for purposes of public disclosure and as permitted by Md. State Govt. Code Ann. § 10-617(h) (Repl. Vol. 2004 and Supp. 2007), 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.* (Repl. Vol.2004 and Supp. 2008).

12/24/2008
Date

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

CONSENT

I, SHIRLEY E. SINGER, LGSW, acknowledge that I have been informed that I may be represented by counsel prior to signing this Consent Order and have knowingly and voluntarily elected not to be represented by counsel.

I am aware that I am entitled to a formal evidentiary hearing before an Administrative Law Judge at the Office of Administrative Hearings. I acknowledge the validity and enforceability of this Consent Order as if entered into after the conclusion of a formal evidentiary hearing in which I would have the right to counsel, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my own behalf, and to all other procedural and substantive protections to which I am entitled by law. I am waiving those procedural and substantive protections. I understand and agree that this Consent Order results from formal disciplinary action and is, therefore, a public document.

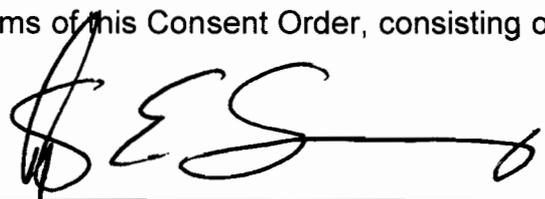
I voluntarily enter into and agree to abide by the foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order, and I agree to abide by the terms and conditions set forth herein as a resolution of the Board's case based on the findings set out herein. I acknowledge and understand that the Board has entered into this Consent Order in lieu

of proceeding with formal Charges against me. I waive any right to contest the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and I waive my right to a full evidentiary hearing as set forth above, and any right to appeal this Consent Order or any adverse ruling of the Board that might have followed any such hearing.

I acknowledge that by failing to abide by the conditions set forth in this Consent Order, I may be subject to disciplinary actions, which may include revocation of my license to practice social work.

I sign this Consent Order voluntarily, without reservation, and I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning and terms of this Consent Order, consisting of six (6) pages.

12-11-08
Date


Shirley E. Singer, LGSW
Respondent

Virginia
STATE OF ~~MARYLAND~~
CITY/COUNTY of ARLINGTON

NOTARY

I **HEREBY CERTIFY** that on this 11 day of DECEMBER 2008, before me, a Notary Public of the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared Shirley E. Singer, LGSW, and made oath in due form of law that the foregoing was her voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS my hand and Notarial Seal.

COLLETTE GOFFIGAN
NOTARY PUBLIC
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES MAR. 31, 2009
COMMISSION # 256146


Notary Public

My Commission Expires: MARCH 31, 2009