

IN THE MATTER OF
ALEIA WILLIAMS-HILLIARD
Applicant

* BEFORE THE MARYLAND
* BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
* EXAMINERS
* Case Number: 15-2102

* * * * *
CONSENT ORDER

On September 17, 2015, the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners ("the Board") charged **ALEIA WILLIAMS-HILLIARD (the "Applicant")** with violating the Maryland Social Work Examiners Act ("the Act") codified at Md. Health Occ. Code Ann. ("H.O.") §§ 19-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol.) and Code Md. Regs. ("COMAR"), tit. 10, § 42.03.01 *et seq.*

The Board charged the Applicant under the following provisions of the Act:

H.O. § 19-302. Qualifications of applicants.

(a) *In general.* – To obtain a license, an applicant shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board that the applicant:

(3) Is of good moral character.

H.O. § 19- 311. Denials, reprimands, suspensions, and revocations - Grounds.

Subject to the hearing provisions of §19-213 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:

(7) Is convicted of or pleads guilty or nolo contendere to a felony or to a crime involving moral turpitude, whether or not any appeal or other proceeding is pending to have the plea or conviction set aside[.]

On January 11, 2016, a Case Resolution Conference was convened in this matter. The Applicant agreed to enter into this Consent Order consisting of Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board finds the following:

1. The Applicant was not and is not a licensed social worker in any jurisdiction.

2. On or about May 12, 2015, the Board received the Applicant's Application for Social Work Licensure ("the application") as a Graduate Social Worker ("LGSW"). On the application, the Applicant answered "yes" to the question, "Have you pled guilty to, nolo contendere to, been convicted of, or received probation before judgment for any criminal act (excluding misdemeanor or traffic violations)?"

3. The Applicant failed to provide a detailed explanation for her affirmative answer. On June 1, 2015, a member of the Board's staff requested a detailed narrative concerning the circumstances of the charges and how the situation was resolved and certified copies of the police/court reports and final dispositions.

4. In response to the Board's request, the Applicant provided an explanation of the charges and the final court dispositions for the charges.

5. A review of the court documents and the Applicant's explanation revealed the following:

a. On or about September 30, 2000, in the State of Illinois, the Applicant pled guilty to retail theft under \$150 after she took a pair of shoes from a shoe store. The Applicant received one year of supervised

probation (withheld), costs and fees of \$471 and 30 hours of public service. Online court records indicate that the costs and fine was not paid and the case is noted "terminated unsatisfied" on November 30, 2001.

b. On or about March 27, 2002, in Wilson, North Carolina, the Applicant pled guilty to misdemeanor larceny (embezzlement and obtaining property by false pretense charges, both felonies, were dismissed) because she took a pair of shoes from a department store where she was employed. The Applicant was sentenced to one year probation, \$125 fine, and community service.

c. In or around March 2005, the Applicant was convicted of injury to personal property, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and misdemeanor larceny (charges of larceny of motor vehicle, conspiracy and identity theft, all felonies were dismissed). The Applicant stated that these charges arose when she took a friend's car keys without permission and gave them to an acquaintance, who drove and damaged the vehicle. The Applicant was ordered to pay restitution (\$1177.24), a fine (\$225.50), complete community service and two years probation.

d. In or around 2007, the Applicant was charged with misdemeanor larceny and contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile. The Applicant stated that these charges arose when she was with a group of people who were accused of shoplifting. The Applicant stated that the individuals left the scene and she remained with their children. The Applicant was found not guilty.

e. In or around May 2012, the Applicant was charged with shoplifting in Hoover, Alabama. This case was dismissed.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes as a matter of law the Applicant violated H.O. § 19-311(7), as set forth at the outset of this Order. The Board further finds that the Applicant meets the moral character requirement under the Act.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 17th day of MARCH, 2016, by a majority of a quorum of the Board considering this case:

ORDERED that the Applicant shall be granted the right to take the Licensed Graduate Social Work Examination (the "Examination") in the State of Maryland; and it is further

ORDERED that if the Applicant's successfully completes the Examination to practice as a licensed graduate social worker, she shall be placed on **PROBATION** for a period of at least **TWO (2) YEARS**, subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. The Applicant's status as a licensed graduate social worker will be listed in the Board's computer records and website as being on "Probation";
2. The Applicant shall provide a copy of this Consent Order to her employer within five (5) days of commencing any employment. The Applicant shall ensure that her employer(s) send confirmation of their receive of this Consent Order to the Board;

3. During the probationary period, the Applicant shall enroll in and successfully complete a one-on-one, Board-approved ethics tutorial, focusing on the issues that gave rise to this case. After the successful completion of the one-on-one ethics tutorial, the instructor shall provide the Board with a written report detailing the Applicant's participation in and completion of the course. The Applicant shall also submit a written statement to the Board stating what she has learned from the ethics tutorial. The Applicant may not use any continuing education credits earned through taking the required course to fulfill any continued education requirements that are mandated for licensure renewal in this State;

4. The Applicant shall secure a Board-certified supervisor ("supervisor") who shall supply the Board with quarterly, written reports on the Applicant's practice. the Applicant shall provide the supervisor with a copy of this Consent Order prior to their initial meeting, and the Board may release to the supervisor any portion of the investigative file as is deemed necessary by the Board and/or supervisor. A negative report from the supervisor may result in a violation of this Consent Order and further sanctions at the Board's discretion. The Board, in its discretion, may reduce the frequency of the written reports from the supervisor, upon a written request from the supervisor;

5. The Applicant shall obey all state and federal laws. If the Applicant is charged with, convicted of, or pleads guilty to, any crimes, whether or not any appeal or other proceeding is pending to have the conviction or plea set aside, she shall notify the Board, in writing, of any criminal charge(s), conviction(s), or

guilty plea(s) within **TEN (10) DAYS** of the conviction or guilty plea. Failure to report a criminal charge, conviction, or guilty plea to the Board in writing within **TEN (10) DAYS** is a violation of probation and this Consent Order; and it is further

ORDERED that no earlier than **TWO (2) YEARS** from the commencement of the probationary period, the Applicant may submit a written petition to the Board requesting termination of probation. The Board may, in its discretion, grant termination of probation if the Applicant has fully and satisfactorily complied with all of the probationary terms and conditions, including successful completion of the one-on-one ethics tutorial, and there are no pending complaints related to the charges; and it is further

ORDERED that if the Applicant violates any of the terms and conditions of Probation and this Consent Order, the Board, in its discretion, after notice and an opportunity for a show cause hearing before the Board, may impose any sanction which the Board may have imposed in this case, including a probationary term and conditions of probation, reprimand, suspension, revocation and/or a monetary penalty; and it is further

ORDERED that the Applicant shall practice according to the Maryland Social Work Examiners Act and in accordance with all applicable laws, statutes and regulations; and it is further

ORDERED that the Applicant shall be responsible for all costs incurred in fulfilling the terms and conditions of the Consent Order; and it is further

ORDERED that this Consent Order shall be a PUBLIC DOCUMENT pursuant to Md. Code Ann. General Provisions §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol.).



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

CONSENT

I, Aleia Williams-Hilliard, acknowledge that I did not consult with a lawyer prior to signing this document. By this Consent, I accept to be bound by this Consent Order and its conditions and restrictions. I waive any rights I may have had to contest the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

I acknowledge the validity of this Consent Order as if entered into after the conclusion of a formal evidentiary hearing in which I would have had the right to counsel, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my own behalf, and to all other substantive and procedural protections as provided by law. I acknowledge the legal authority and the jurisdiction of the Board to initiate these proceedings and to issue and enforce this Consent Order. I also affirm that I am waiving my right to appeal any adverse ruling of the Board that might have followed any such hearing.

I sign this Consent Order after having had an opportunity to consult with counsel, without reservation, and I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning and

terms of this Consent Order. I voluntarily sign this Order, and understand its meaning and effect.

0122/2016
Date

Aleia Williams-Hilliard
Aleia Williams-Hilliard, Applicant

NOTARY

STATE OF MARYLAND

CITY/COUNTY OF Hannover :

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 22 day of January, 2016, before me, a Notary Public of the foregoing State personally appeared Aleia Williams-Hilliard and made oath in due form of law that signing the foregoing Consent Order was her voluntary act and deed, and the statements made herein are true and correct.

AS WITNESSETH my hand and notarial seal

C. Serrano
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 2-16-16

