

**BEFORE THE MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF EXAMINERS  
FOR LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS**

**IN THE MATTER OF  
AUGUST PATTON**

**CAUSE NOS. 2016-05**

**ORDER REVOKING LPC-S CREDENTIAL**

THIS MATTER, came on for hearing before the Mississippi State Board of Licensed Professional Counselors (hereafter sometimes referred to as ("the Board")), as authorized by statute, on the 21st day of September, 2016, against the Respondent, August Patton. Board Member Walter Frazier, Ph. D., LPC-S, was present at the hearing of this matter but recused himself and did not participate in the deliberations of such. The Board Panel consisted of Juawice McCormick, PhD, LPC-S, NCC, NCSC; Aretha Hargrove-Edwards, Ed.D., LPC-S, ACS, NCC, NCSC; and Steve Rollins Stafford, LPC-S, resulting in a quorum. John Eads, Special Assistant Attorney General, served as the Administrative Hearing Officer and presided at the Hearing. The Board, having considered the evidence and testimony and being otherwise fully advised in the premises, finds, based upon clear and convincing evidence, as follows:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Board is the duly constituted authority established pursuant to Title 73, Chapter 30 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, for the licensure and regulation of the counseling profession in the State of Mississippi.
2. The Respondent holds license number 1789 which is subject to suspension and revocation by the Board pursuant to Section 73-30-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended.

3. In 2016, the Board reviewed the LPC Supervisor (“LPC-S”) applications of Wanda La’Shaun Lacy and August Patton. During the review a discrepancy was noticed on one of the Certificate of Completions, as it did not have a name on the Certificate. The school, which conducted the LPC-S accreditation class, was contacted during the review; however, the Board did grant the credential to August Patton.
4. Within days, the Board’s office received information from the institution that Ms. Patton did not complete the program as designed. The Board never mailed Ms. Patton her certificate and at the next meeting, the Board filed a complaint against Ms. Patton. The Complaint was assigned to Dr. Walter Frazier to investigate.
5. Dr. Frazier investigated the complaint and notified Ms. Patton in accordance with the Board Rules. After completing his investigation, Dr. Frazier recommended that the Board hold a hearing. The Notice of Hearing and Complaint was issued on August 5, 2016, to the Respondent charging her with violating Section **73-30-21(1)(f), 73-30-23, and 73-30-21(1)(d) (Obtaining a license or certificate by fraud, deceit or other misrepresentation)**, Miss. Code Ann. (1972, as amended), along with 2014 American Counseling Association’s *Code of Ethics*, **C.4.a (Accurate Representation)**, adopted through Section 73-31-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended.
6. The Notice of Hearing and Complaint was served on the Responded by personal service at her address of record with the Board, as evidenced by the signed Certified Mail receipt admitted into evidence in this matter. The hearing in this matter was set for and held on September 21, 2016 at 9:00 AM and all the parties were present

at said date. The hearing was held at the Robert E. Lee Building in Jackson, MS 39201.

7. The charges of the complaint were presented by Special Assistant Attorney General Wm. Jeffrey Jernigan. Respondent was represented by Tametrice E. Hodges. Witnesses at the hearing were Dr. Walter Frazier and Respondent.
8. Rule 4.4 guides the application process for the LPC-S Credential. The focus of the investigation centered on Rule 4.4(A)(3), which states that a Board Qualified Supervisor (“BQS” or “LPC-S”) shall:
  3. Have documentation/verification of Supervision training [Course work or minimum 30 hour workshop]. Supervisors must have successfully completed option a or b or c below.
    - a. Graduate-Level Academic Training. At least one graduate-level academic course in counseling supervision. The course must have included at least 45 clock hours (equivalent to a three credit hour semester course) of supervision training.
    - b. Professional Training. A Board approved professional training program in supervision. The training program must be a minimum of 30 clock hours with the trainers and meet presentation standards established by the Board.
    - c. Show completion of Approved Clinical Supervisor Credential from NBCC.
9. A LPC-S has the duty and responsibility to report to the board the accurate training of potential Licensed professional Counselors (“LPCs”). Honesty and integrity in the training process are essential to ensuring that future LPCs are properly trained and prepared to treat individuals seeking counseling therapy. Inaccurate information presented to the board can lead to an individual receiving a license for which they are not qualified to receive. An improperly trained and/or licensed LPC can cause harm to the public.

10. Respondent opted for the Professional Training from Rule 4.4(A)(3)(b) in choosing a program offered by The University of North Carolina Greensboro. The program was chaired under J. Scott Young, PhD. The program was an online class and designed to be completed over thirty (30) hours.
11. Dr. Young wrote to the Board a letter that stated that the Respondent did not complete the training which consisted of 7 modules and assessments. Additionally Dr. Young stated that Respondent should not have submitted the Certificate of Completion to the Board. Moodle Site logs of access and activity reports documented the Respondent's access to the program operated by UNC Greensboro. The Board found these logs indicated an access history of Respondents, despite the time of day discrepancies. The logs indicated Respondent rushed through the program skipping the lessons and educational focus.
12. Respondent provided to the Board that she had fully completed the LPC-S training through UNC-Greensboro by presenting a Certificate of Completion. The Board found that Respondent provided deceitful information that she completed the program as designed. The Board found that Respondent claimed that she received professional qualifications that she did not actually complete. Respondent failed to faithfully complete the program as designed.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Board has jurisdiction of this matter pursuant to Sections 73-30-7 and 73-30-21 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended. Likewise venue is properly placed before the Board to hear this matter in Jackson, Mississippi.
2. Pursuant to Sections 73-30-7 and 73-30-21 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended and Chapter 8 of the Board's *Rules and Regulations*, the Board may among other things, suspend or revoke a license, refuse to renew a license, reprimand a licensee, and/or impose such other requirement or restrictions on the licensee as the Board finds proper in this matter.
3. The Respondent received due, proper and timely notice of the charges against her, and of the time and the place of the hearing. Therefore, this matter is properly before the Board.
4. The Board has complied with all relevant procedural legal requirements.
5. Pursuant to Section 73-30-13 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, and Chapter 7 of the Board's *Rules and Regulations*, individuals licensed by the Board adhere to the American Counseling Association's *Code of Ethics* 2014.
6. The Board pursuant to Sections 73-30-21(1)(f) and (1)(d) and 73-30-23, Miss. Code Ann. (1972) along with other referenced provisions finds that the Respondent has intentionally violated the rules, regulations and laws governing Licensed Professional Counselors along with the 2014 ACA Code of Ethics. Specifically, the Respondent has violated the following provisions:

## a) C.4.a. Accurate Representation

Counselors claim or imply only professional qualifications actually completed and correct any known misrepresentations of their qualifications by others. Counselors truthfully represent the qualifications of their professional colleagues. Counselors clearly distinguish between paid and volunteer work experience and accurately describe their continuing education and specialized training.

- b) Obtained a license or certificate by fraud, deceit or other misrepresentation.  
Miss. Code Ann. § 73-30-21(1)(d).

7. Respondent provided to the Board that she had fully completed the LPC-S training through UNC-Greensboro by presenting a Certificate of Completion. The Board found that Respondent provided deceitful information that she completed the program as designed. The Board found that Respondent claimed that she received professional qualifications that she did not actually complete.

ADJUDICATIONS

Based on clear and convincing evidence and the above Conclusions of Law; and for each of the violations, separately and/or jointly, the Board finds and orders that:

1. The LPC-S credential of August Patton, Licensed Professional Counselor, Number 1789, is hereby revoked.
2. The Respondent may not apply for the LPC-S credential prior to the expiration of one (1) year from the date of entry of this Final Order. In the event that licensee

Patton applies for the LPC-S credential, she must complete the following for

approval:

- a. Meet current requirements for licensure.
  - b. Complete a thirty (30) hour face to face (in person) supervision training program through an NBCC certified program, or complete a three (3) hour graduate course in supervision from a CAECREP approved school (on campus – not online).
3. Respondent is to receive three (3) hours in continuing education focused on ethics by an approved NBCC provider in a face-to-face program (not-online). This is to be completed in addition to the continuing education required for licensure renewal. The continuing education is to be completed and submitted to the Board's office within twelve (12) months of the date of this Order.

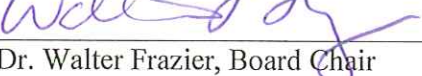
This action and order of the Board shall be public record and shall be spread upon the Minutes of the Board as its official act and deed.

**SO ORDERED**, this the 30th day of November, 2016.

Board Members Aretha Hargrove-Edwards, Steve Rollins Stafford, Juawice McCormick voted unanimously in favor of revocation of August Patton's LPC-S credential.

Board member Walter Frazier recused himself and did not participate in the Board deliberations or vote as he was the investigating Board Member.

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF  
EXAMINERS FOR LICENSED  
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

BY:   
Dr. Walter Frazier, Board Chair