

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

**IN THE MATTER OF
DAWN RENEE SIAS, LPC-S**

CAUSE NO. 2016-20

AGREED ORDER

This matter having come before the Mississippi State Board of Examiners for Professional Counselors (“Board”), concerning the entry of an Agreed Order for the purpose of settling a disciplinary proceeding pending before the Board.

Having considered the matter, the parties by consent, enter this Agreed Order and make the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, to-wit:

1.

[PARTIES]

The parties to this action are:

- a) The Mississippi State Board of Examiners for Licensed Professional Counselors (“Board”), which is a duly constituted Board existing within the executive branch of the government of the State of Mississippi. Its main executive offices are located at 239 North Lamar Street, Suite 402, Robert E. Lee Building, Jackson, MS 39201.
- b) Dawn Renee Sias, Licensee Number 1355 and the Respondent to this action, whose mailing address is 4411 North High Street Greenwood, MS 38930.

2.

[AUTHORITY]

That Board is charged by law with the responsibility of licensing and regulating the practice of counseling in the State of Mississippi and with the protection of the public pursuant to Section 73-30-1, *et seq.*, Miss. Code Ann. (1972), as amended.

3.

[ALLEGATIONS]

Dawn Renee Sias, LPC-S has served as a supervisor for numerous applicants for licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor (“LPC”). Particularly, Respondent supervised T.S. Documentation submitted by Respondent indicated irregularities and indicated improper supervision. The Board has alleged in its notification of complaint that Respondent has violated C.1. Knowledge of and Compliance with Standards, F.1.a. Client Welfare, F.6. Counseling Supervision Evaluation, Remediation, and Endorsement, F.4 Supervisors Responsibilities, F.5.c. Professional Disclosure, and I.1. Standards and the law a. Knowledge of the 2014 ACA Code Ethics and Mississippi Code Ann. Section 73-30-21(1)(c) and (d).

4.

[FINDINGS OF FACT]

Respondent supervised multiple applicants while they were seeking LPC licensure. Respondent did not adhere to ACA and Board standards while supervising these individuals. Respondent’s actions delayed and impeded the applicants’ licensure process.

Respondent was notified of the complaint in September, 2016 and shortly thereafter ceased supervising individuals seeking licensure. Respondent has obtained continuing education hours in ethics and supervision in addition to the required continuing education hours for renewal.

5.

[STIPULATED DISPOSITION]

There is now pending before the Board certain allegations of unethical conduct that if established before the Board in a due process hearing pursuant to Section 73-30-21 of the Miss. Code of 1972 as amended, would constitute violation of the Board's Rules, Regulations and Rules of Ethics, specifically the 2014 ACA Code of Ethics Sections C.1., F.1.a., F.6.a., F.4.b., F.4.c., F.5.c. and I.1., for which the Board may suspend or revoke the license of the Respondent, issue a reprimand, or take any other action as the Board deems necessary.

Respondent agrees and consents that the following disposition is just and appropriate under the circumstances.

- a. Respondent's Board-Qualified Supervisor ("LPC-S") credential is suspended until the following provisions have been satisfied and have been reviewed by the Board:
- b. Respondent shall submit to the board completed a minimum of 30 clock hours of face-to-face Counseling Supervision Training or a face-to-face 3 credit hour graduate level Counseling Supervision Training or face-to-face 3 credit hour graduate-level Counseling Supervision course at an accredited university. In the alternative, Respondent can obtain ACS certification. The training is to be obtained AFTER the date this consent order is entered.
- c. Respondent agrees to provide to the Board written notification that all current or pending supervisees were made aware of the pending Complaint and Agreed Order. This shall be submitted to the Board within thirty (30) days of the signing of this Order.
- d. Respondent shall provide written notification of this Order signed by you and your employer with signatures notarized, to the Board. This shall be submitted to the Board within thirty (30) days of the signing of this Order.

6.

[RIGHTS]

Respondent has had the opportunity at all times to seek advice of competent counsel of choice. No coercion has been exerted upon the Respondent, nor have any promises been made other than those referenced in the Agreement.

The Respondent has freely and voluntarily entered into this Agreement motivated only by a desire to resolve the issues addressed in Paragraph Three (3) herein.

Respondent is fully aware of her rights to contest the findings in a formal hearing. These rights include: representation by an attorney at the Respondent's expense, the right to a public hearing on the charges filed, the right to confront and cross examine witnesses called to testify against her, right to present evidence in Respondent's own behalf, the right to receive written findings of fact and conclusions of law supporting the decision on the merits of the charges, and the right to obtain judicial review of the Board's decision.

The Board has given the Respondent due, proper and timely notice of the allegations against him.

All of said rights being voluntarily waived by Respondent in exchange for the Board's acceptance of this Agreed Order.

7.

[JURISDICTION]

The Respondent acknowledges that the Board has jurisdiction over the subject matter and her and authority to enter into this Agreed Order pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. (1972) Section 73-30-7, as amended. Venue is likewise properly before the Board to consider this matter in

Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi. All substantive and procedural requirements under the law have been met by the Board. This matter is, therefore, properly before the Board.

7.

[AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD]

The Board is created pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. (1972) Section 73-30-5 as amended. The Board, in accordance with Section 73-30-21 of the Miss. Code Ann. (1972) and Rule 8.2(E)(3)(c) of the Board Rules and Regulations, has authority to resolve a complaint between the Board and a licensee.

WHEREFORE PREMISES CONSIDERED, this Agreed Order is submitted with the following conditions:

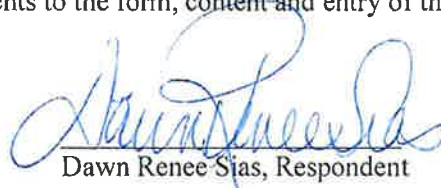
1. By entering into this Agreed Order, the Respondent waives any defect in the proceedings before the Board and any further right to notice and hearing under Title 73, Chapter 30 of the Miss. Code of 1972, as amended, or any other governing laws, rules and regulations.
2. This Agreed Order contains the entire agreement between the Respondent and the Board, there being no other agreement of any kind, verbal or otherwise, which varies the terms of this Agreed Order.
3. If Respondent violates the terms of this Agreed Order or further violates the laws, rules, regulations and code of ethics governing practice as a licensed professional counselor, the Board may take further disciplinary action against the Respondent, up to and including suspension and revocation of her license.
4. This action and order of the Board shall be public record and may be shared with other licensing Boards (in and out of state) and the public. This action shall be spread upon the

Minutes of the Board as its official act and deed and as the need may arise shall be reported to and posted with the appropriate authorities and published.

5. This Agreed Order is conclusive evidence of the matters described herein and may be considered by the Board in determining appropriate sanctions in the event of subsequent violation by the Respondent.
7. It is expressly understood by the Respondent that this Agreed Order is subject to the approval of the Board and shall have no force and effect unless and until signed by the Board. Respondent agrees and authorizes the Board staff and/or legal counsel to present this Agreed Order to the Board for consideration of the terms provided herein. Respondent further understands and agrees that, in order to make a decision regarding approval of this Agreed Order, discussions must take place between Board members, staff and legal counsel. Should this Agreed Order not be accepted by the Board, Respondent agrees that the presentation to and consideration of the Agreed Order shall not unfairly or illegally prejudice the Board or any of its members from further participation in or resolution of these proceedings, including serving as arbiter in any hearing regarding the Respondent by having considered this matter. Similarly, if this Agreed Order is not accepted Respondent will be free to defend herself in a formal hearing before the Board and no admissions or inferences will be made from Respondent's willingness to have entered into this Agreed Order.
8. Upon execution of this Agreed Order by affixing the Board authorized signature below, the provisions of this Agreed Order shall become Final Order of the Board and no hearing before the Board will be granted or held in this matter.
9. There is no right of appeal.

Approved for Entry:

The undersigned party hereby agrees and consents to the form, content and entry of the above and foregoing Agreed Order.


Dawn Renee Sias, Respondent

April 19, 2018
Date

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED BY THE MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS on this the 20th day of April, 2018.

Board Member Dr. Richard Strebeck voted AYE; Board Member Dr. Aretha Hargrove-Edwards voted AYE; Board Vice-Chair Steven Rollins Stafford voted AYE; Board Member Dr. Kimberly Sallis voted AYE.

Board Chair Dr. Juawice McCormick did not participate in the Board deliberations as she was the investigating Board Member.

SO ORDERED, this the 20th day of April, 2018.

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
FOR LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

BY: 
Dr. Juawice McCormick, Chair
For and on behalf of the Board

Drafted By:
Wm. Jeffrey Jernigan
Special Assistant Attorney General