

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

LAURA MCSHANE

CAUSE NO. 2022-06

CONSENT ORDER

This matter comes before the Mississippi State Board of Examiners for Licensed Professional Counselors (Board) concerning an entry of a consent order regarding Laura McShane (Respondent).

Upon recommendation of the Board's representative in this matter, and with consent of Respondent, the parties stipulate and agree to the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Board is a duly constituted authority existing within the executive branch of the government of the State of Mississippi and is charged with licensure and regulation of the practice of licensed professional counseling under Title 73, Chapter 30, of the Mississippi code of 1972, as amended. The main executive offices are located at 239 North Lamar Street, Suite 402, Jackson, MS 39201.
2. Respondent is a Licensed Professional Counselor holding license Number 1981 issued by the Board. This license was initially issued on or about March 19, 2014 and is set to expire June 30, 2023.
3. By entering this Consent Order, Respondent waives any defect in proceedings before the Board and any further right to notice and hearing under Title 73, Chapter 30 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, or any other governing laws, rules, and regulations at this time.
4. Respondent had the opportunity at all times to seek advice from competent counsel of her choice. No coercion has been exerted upon Respondent nor have any promises been made other than those reflected in this Consent Order. Respondent has freely and voluntarily entered this Consent Order after the opportunity to consult with legal counsel and being motivated only by the desire to resolve the issues addressed herein and for the purpose of avoiding further administrative or judicial action with respect to this cause.
5. It is expressly understood by Respondent that this Consent 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 Consent 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 Consent Order, discussions must take place between Board members, staff, and legal

counsel. Should this Consent Order not be accepted by the Board, Respondent agrees that the presentation to and consideration of the Consent 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 Respondent by having considered this matter. Similarly, if this Consent 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 this Consent Order.

6. Respondent is fully aware of her right to contest charges made against her in a formal hearing. These rights include representation by an attorney at Respondent's expense, the right to a public hearing on the charges filed, the right to confront and cross examine witnesses, to receive written findings of fact and conclusions of law supporting the decision of the merits of the accusations, and the right to obtain judicial review of the Board's decision.
7. Respondent expressly waives all further procedural steps, and expressly waives all rights to seek judicial review of or to otherwise challenge or contest the validity of any action taken by the Board and/or its representative(s) in this matter, the Consent Order and/or the stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and penalty imposed by the Consent Order.
8. The clear and convincing evidence establishes the following:
 - a. Respondent disclosed that she is in a romantic relationship with one of her clients. Respondent also began the romantic relationship with client within a few days after the therapeutic relationship ended. Accordingly, Respondent violated the following American Counseling Association (ACA) Codes of Ethics:
 - i. A.5.c. – Sexual and/or Romantic Relationships with Former Clients
 1. Engaged in romantic relationship with a former client without waiting 5 years after termination with client.
9. Respondent has violated Board Rule 7.1: Standards of Practice. "Persons licensed by the Board shall adhere to all parts of the current American Counseling Association Code of Ethics and Standards of practice with the exception of any parts superseded by state law, policy, or rules and regulations adopted by the Mississippi State Board of Examiners for Licensed Professional Counselors."

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Board has jurisdiction over the subject matter and Respondent under Section 73-30-7 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended. Venue is likewise properly placed before this Board to hear this matter in Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi.
2. The Board gave Respondent due, proper, and timely notice of the charges against her and has fulfilled all relevant procedural legal requirements.

- Under Section and 73-30-21, the Board is authorized to revoke, suspend, assess a civil penalty (fine), place a license holder on probation, refuse to renew a license and/or take other appropriate action with respect to any license for a violation of the laws, rules and regulations governing licensed professional counselors.

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Board makes the following:

ADJUDICATION

- The respondents LPC-S license shall be suspended for a minimum of twelve (12) months from the date the order is signed by the Board.
- Once the twelve (12) months suspension is completed, Respondent may request, in writing, that the Board issue her a Restricted Status LPC. The restriction shall require the Respondent to practice counseling under supervision for a minimum of twelve (12) months. The terms of supervision are as follows:
 - The LPC-S shall be approved by the investigating Board member or his designee.
 - One (1) hour of Individual supervision hour to forty (40) hours of total services provided OR one (1) hour of individual supervision to twenty-five (25) hours of Direct Services.
 - One (1) hour of Individual supervision should occur no less frequently than every other week.
 - Supervised experience must be documented using the Board's online portal with personal backup copies.
 - Once supervision is completed, the LPC-S shall submit a Supervision Form B documenting the experience with recommendation regarding licensure.
- Respondent must maintain her LPC-S as pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Board.
- Once Respondent completes the sanctioning, she may request the Board to remove the restrictions and return her to Active Status as an LPC-S.
- Respondent shall take 24 Continuing Education Hours (CEH) in Professional Boundaries ethics as approved in advanced by the investigating Board member or his designee. These CEHs are in addition to the LPC renewal requirements. All CEH requirements must be NBCC approved and at least twelve (12) CEHs must be attended in person onsite. These Continuing Education Requirements are not included as part of the licensing renewal process.
- Respondent has until May 20, 2025 to complete the terms and conditions herein.
- Respondent is aware that if she 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 Respondent, up to and including suspension and revocation of her license.

ORDERED this the 20th day of May, 2022.

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF
EXAMINERS FOR LICENSED
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

By: Rumie E. Sellers, Ph.D., LPC
For and on behalf of the Board

AGREED AS TO FORM AND CONSENT:

Laura McShane, LPC
Laura McShane, LPC

Attorney for Respondent (if applicable)