

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:
WILLIAM ROYAL TAYLOR**

CAUSE NO. 2022-35

AGREED ORDER

This matter comes before the Mississippi State Board of Examiners for Licensed Professional Counselors (Board) concerning an entry of a consent order regarding William Royal Taylor (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 1979 issued by the Board. This license was initially issued on or about March 6, 2015, and is set to expire June 30, 2023.
3. By entering into 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 his choice. No coercion has been exerted upon the Respondent nor have any promises been made other than those reflected in this Consent Order. The Respondent has freely and voluntarily entered into 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 the 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 himself 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 his right to contest charges made against him 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. **Cause No. 2022-35:** On or about October 20, 2022, a complaint was filed against Respondent. An outpatient of Pine Grove Behavioral Health and Addiction Services reported having a sexual encounter with Respondent to a psychiatrist. Respondent came to the patient's home to discuss a crisis.
9. On or about January 5, 2023, the Board received Respondent's response to the complaint. In the response, Response stated that the client reported being emotionally distraught and reported suicidal ideation. Respondent went to her home to find her very intoxicated and emotional. When talking with his client was ineffective, he embraced her, and she attempted to kiss him. Respondent stated that client then went into detail about her lack of intimacy and asked him to stay with her.
10. Respondent also wrote, in part:
 - a. I determined earlier that [the client] was not truly suicidal and had no real means or plan. I believe she felt that the concern I showed for her was an invitation for intimacy. In hindsight and evaluation [,] I know that my conduct was inappropriate and that even my follow-up communication with the patient was probably misconstrued. As far as more specific details I cannot provide them as it has been two and a half years since this occurred.
11. In his response, Respondent also stated that he was "content with his decision to surrender his license and move on with [his] life." Respondent also purported that he would accept whatever circumstances that would accompany the Board's decision.
12. Clear and convincing evidence establishes that Respondent is guilty of violating ACA Codes of Ethics A.5.a. – Sexual and/or Romantic Relationships Prohibited.

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 him and has fulfilled all relevant procedural legal requirements.
3. 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.

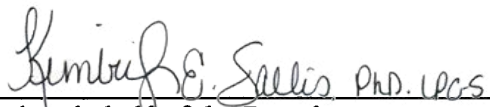
Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Board makes the following:

ADJUDICATION

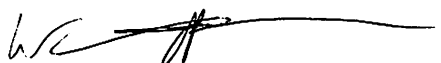
1. Respondent shall surrender his license with disciplinary action under Board Rule 1.4.GG and 5.4.H and is not allowed to practice professional counseling in the State of Mississippi.
2. Respondent is aware that if he violates the terms of this Agreed Order or further violates the laws, rules, regulations, and code of ethics governing practice as a licensed professional counselor, the Board may take further action against Respondent, including or not limited to license revocation.
3. Respondent must adhere to the current rules and regulations at the time he submits his application if he chooses to reapply for licensure.
4. Respondent agrees to wait a period of no less than twelve (12) months from the date of the Board's signature on this order before he reapplies for licensure.

SO ORDERED this the 5th day of May 2023.

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

By:  Ph.D. LPC-S
For and on behalf of the Board

AGREED AS TO FORM AND CONSENT:


William Royal Taylor, LPC

Attorney for Respondent (if applicable)