

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

**In the Matter of:**

**AMANDA CONERLY,**

**Respondent**

**No. 2018-03**

**FINAL ORDER**

THIS MATTER came before the Mississippi State Board of Examiners for Licensed Professional Counselors (“Board”) on October 21, 2019, to determine whether disciplinary action should be imposed against the license of Amanda Conerly (“Respondent”). Board Member Steven Rollins Stafford, LPC-S, recused himself and did not participate in the Board’s consideration and deliberation in this matter. A quorum of the remaining Board members was present throughout the hearing and deliberation in the matter.

The Respondent appeared in person for the hearing and was represented by legal counsel, Attorneys Tim Sensing and Rusty Connelly. Ken Walley, Legal Counsel for the Board, presented the charges against the Respondent. The case was called for hearing without objection from any party.

Gloria J. Green served as Administrative Hearing Officer, presided at the hearing and was directed to prepare the Board’s written decision in accordance with its deliberation. Having conducted the hearing in this matter and based upon the exhibits, testimony and the evidence presented, the Board makes the following findings, conclusions and order based on clear and convincing evidence:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. The Board is established pursuant to Title 73, Chapter 30 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, and is charged with the duty of licensing and regulating the practice of Licensed Professional Counselors in the State of Mississippi.
2. Respondent is the holder of license number 1588 issued by the Board.
3. This matter arose from a complaint filed by A. B.<sup>1</sup> (“Complainant”) alleging that the Respondent learned that her child received counseling services from another Licensed Professional Counselor and used this information to question the Complainant’s judgment as a parent.
4. On September 16, 2019, the Board filed a Notice of Hearing and Complaint in this

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<sup>1</sup>The Complainant will be referred to by initials to preserve confidentiality of the minor client.

matter, charging the Respondent with violating Sections C.6.b, B.1.b and B.1.c. of the American Counseling Association (“ACA”) Code of Ethics.

5. Respondent was properly served with notice of the time, place, and nature of the proceedings to be held before the Hearing Panel.

6. Respondent and the Complainant had been friends and had worked at the same place.

7. Complainant’s daughter received counseling services from Kimberly Neal in July 2017.

8. In December 2017, Respondent was told that the Complainant’s child had received counseling services from Ms. Neal. Thereafter, Respondent sent text messages to the Complainant asking for her opinion about the Respondent as a therapist and indicating that the Respondent could have referred the Complainant to a therapist for her daughter.

9. The Complainant questioned how the Respondent became aware of her daughter’s counseling services. The Respondent did not reveal her source of information to the Complainant.

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

### **CONCLUSION OF LAW**

1. The Board has jurisdiction of this matter pursuant to Sections 73-30-7, 73-30-21 and 73-30-23 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended. Venue is likewise properly placed before the Board to hear this matter in Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi.

2. This matter was duly and properly convened and all substantive and procedural requirements under law have been satisfied.

3. The Board is authorized to license and regulate persons who apply for or hold licenses to practice counseling and to prescribe conditions under which persons may practice to protect the public health, safety and welfare.

4. The Board concludes that neither the Complainant nor her daughter was a client of the Respondent. Further, the evidence does not establish that the Respondent violated Sections B.1.b, B.1.c and/or C.6.b of the ACA Code of Ethics as contained in the Complaint, and it must be dismissed.

Accordingly, the Board issues the following Order:

### **ORDER**

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that the charges in the Complaint based on violations of Sections B.1.b, B.1.c and C.6.b of the American Counseling Association (“ACA”) Code of Ethics are hereby dismissed.

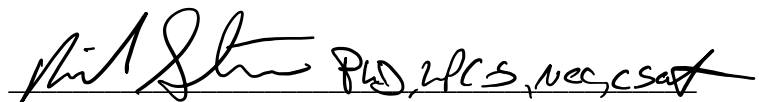
**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that this decision and opinion is a final order of the Board and is conclusive evidence of the matters described herein.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that this action and order of the Board shall be public record. It may be shared with other licensing boards (in- and out-of-state) and the public and may be reported to the appropriate entities as required or authorized by state and/or federal law or guidelines. This action shall be spread upon the Minutes of the Board as its official act and deed.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that upon execution of this Final Order by affixing the Board authorized signature below, the provisions of this Final Order shall become the final order of the Board.

SO ENTERED, this the 4<sup>th</sup> day of December 2019.

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

BY:   
Richard Strebeck, PhD, LPC-S, NCC, CSAT, Chair  
for and on behalf of the Board