

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

**In the Matter of:**

**DANIELLE STRICKLAND-HOUSLEY,**

**Respondent**

**No. 2023-18**

**FINAL ORDER**

THIS MATTER came before the Mississippi State Board of Examiners for Licensed Professional Counselors (“Board”) on June 26, 2023, for a show case hearing regarding the Respondent, Danielle D. Strickland - Housley’s (“Respondent”), application for licensure and the denial of said licensure by the Board. A quorum of the Board members was present throughout the hearing and deliberation in the matter.

Alexis Morris, Legal Counsel for the Board, presented the case regarding the denial of licensure to the Board. Respondent, having been served with notice of these proceedings and being fully informed of her rights to a formal hearing before the Board, elected to proceed in the matter and to represent herself. The case was called for hearing without objection from any party.

Royce M. Cole 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. LeeAnn Mordecai (“Mordecai”), Executive Director of the Board, testified that on September 28, 2018 the Respondent paid the application fee - valid through September 28, 2019 - to become a P-LPC pursuant to Rule 4.2 of the Board’s Rules and Regulations. Respondent told Mordecai that she had completed her supervision requirements sometime prior to the applying for licensure. Supporting documents for the P-LPC application were completed in August 2019. Neither the Respondent nor the Board qualified supervisor (LPC-S) submitted the supervision requirements required under Rule 4.2(B) of the Board’s Rules and Regulations within the year deadline.

3. At its September 20, 2019 meeting, the Board reviewed the P-LPC application and placed the application on continued review because of various deficiencies. Specifically, the Board noted that the application lacked a current supervision agreement, supervision contract, or online supervisory reporting log. (*See Exhibit R-3*). Respondent was instructed to submit all hours logs and a signed verification contract, supervision reporting logs for verification of experience, and to remit the LPC application fee for review as an LPC candidate as she appeared to have met the requirements for candidacy. The Board also advised Respondent of the 365-day deadline for completing an application for licensure according to the Board's Rules and Regulations. Respondent was warned about the destruction of incomplete applications after 2 years and that failure to complete the application process within a year of receipt of the licensure packet would render the application expired, requiring a reapplication fee to reactive and to continue the process under Rules 4.1(H) and (L) of the Board's Rules and Regulations.
4. The P-LPC application expired on September 28, 2019. After the expiration of the application, Respondent asked to change her P-LPC application to one for LPC Candidate during a conversation with Mordecai. On December 31, 2019 - two months after the expiration date of the first P-LPC application - instead of paying the application fee for an LPC, Respondent paid, for the second time, a P-LPC reapplication fee. This payment extended the expired P-LPC application to September 28, 2020.
5. Respondent again allowed this second application to expire without completion on September 28, 2020. The Respondent then submitted a third P-LPC application on November 26, 2020, giving her nearly another year through September 28, 2021 to complete the process. After receiving notes and logs from Respondent on May 17, 2021, the third application was brought for review before the Board on May 21, 2021. The Board determined that Respondent needed to submit additional information. Some of the information included supervision experience, strengths and areas of growth, and oral and written communication. The Board also directed Respondent's supervisor to submit a signed and notarized affidavit regarding the supervision reporting logs she previously had submitted in September 2020.
6. Mordecai testified that Respondent submitted an affidavit and notes on September 8, 2021, but that the third application expired on September 28, 2021. Nevertheless, the application was reviewed by the Board on November 5, 2021. In fact, Respondent admitted at the hearing an email from the Board dated November 15, 2021 regarding the third application. (*See Exhibit R-4*).
7. Despite its expiration, the Board notified Respondent that her third application had been reviewed and approved for P-LPC licensure pending receipt of an official passing score on the National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination ("NCMHCE") from the National Board for Certified Counselors ("NBCC") and payment of the reapplication fee, which would extend her application for a fourth time to September 28, 2022. By the end of the fourth

extension, her P-LPC application would have been on file for four years from the date the application was initially received. (*See Exhibit R-4*). The Board reminded Respondent to take and pass the exam by September 28, 2022 or risk the application becoming null and void, being destroyed, and having to start the application process under current rules and regulations.

8. Respondent testified that she paid the reapplication fee on November 26, 2021. According to Mordecai's testimony, when Respondent paid the reapplication fee, the application completion date was extended through September 28, 2022 because of the way the online system processed such payments under the referenced fee code for reapplication fees of \$100 at the time, an additional year was added to the expiration date for each of the \$100 reapplication fee payments. The system automatically generated emails adding an additional year from the application date to complete. According to Mordecai's testimony, the online payment system no longer operates this way.
9. Respondent testified that she took the NCMHCE on September 20, 2022. However, her application expired on September 28, 2022. In an email dated October 21, 2021, the Board notified Respondent of its receipt of her NCMHCE scores and that she had met all requirements to become an LPC in Mississippi. (*See Exhibit R-5*). She was instructed to pay the initial licensure fee of \$220 to get the license issued.
10. Respondent testified that she attempted to pay the licensure fee through her portal online but was unable because it was deactivated. At the hearing, Respondent introduced an email she sent to Mordecai dated January 4, 2023 in which she recounted her conversations with Mordecai regarding taking the NCMHCE, her efforts to pay the fee online, and her inability to do so. (*See Exhibit R-6*). In an email dated January 9, 2023 Mordecai confirmed receipt of Respondent's licensure fee, informed her of the Board's upcoming review of her file at its January 20, 2023 meeting, and to anticipate receiving notification of its findings within 10 business days.
11. The Board reviewed her request for LPC licensure at the January 20, 2023 meeting. Respondent had passed the NCMHCE but had not yet passed the Mississippi Jurisprudence Examination. The Board subsequently denied Respondent's licensure because she had not passed the required examinations and emailed notification of the denial on or about January 30, 2023, which she claims not to have received.
12. However, Respondent received and admitted during the hearing a February 2, 2023 email notification from the Board approving her application for licensure. (*See Exhibit R-7*). The notification stated that the approval was contingent upon receipt of the \$100 reapplication fee to extend her application and receipt of the official score report for the Mississippi Jurisprudence Examination. Mordecai testified that this approval notification was sent inadvertently, and Respondent was resent the denial.

13. Respondent requested a hearing regarding the denial in April 2023. On May 23, 2023, the Board issued a Notice to Show Cause to address the denial of licensure. The hearing was scheduled for June 26, 2023. (*See Exhibit B-1*). During that time Respondent passed the Mississippi Jurisprudence Examination on April 26, 2023, but the Board had previously issued its denial January 20, 2023.
14. Respondent was properly served with notice of the time, place, and nature of the proceedings to be held before the Board. Respondent appeared before the Board. Respondent submitted that she paid every application fee she was instructed to maintain her P-LPC licensure based on her understanding of the Board's Rules and Regulations while admitting that she paid late a total of 4 times and was confused about the process. Respondent said she would only pay after she felt that she had turned in all missing parts of application. She cited incomplete portions of her application and anticipation of receipt of instructions on how to pay fees and submit information as reasons for late payments over the years.
15. Mordecai testified that the Board's Rules and Regulations were amended during Respondent's application process. When asked, Respondent admitted that she was responsible for keeping abreast of the rules and any changes despite any confusion she may have had with the process. Respondent stated that she did not know why her application was denied and pointed to the February 2, 2023 approval notice as evidence that the denial should be reversed.

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 and 73-30-21. 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. Section 73-30-7 authorizes the Board to adopt such rules and regulations as it finds necessary to conduct the business of the Board and to carry out its licensure and regulatory functions.
4. Section 73-30-21 authorizes the Board 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.
5. By clear and convincing evidence, the Board finds that Respondent has failed to demonstrate that she has completed the examination requirements necessary for an LPC

established pursuant to Section 73-30-9(2)(g) and Rule 4.3(C) of the Mississippi State Board of Examiners for Licensed Professional Counselors Rules and Regulations.

**ORDER**

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that the denial of licensure for LPC for Danielle Strickland-Housley on January 20, 2023 is affirmed by clear and convincing evidence in accordance with Section 73-30-9(2)(g), Rule 4.3(C), and Rule 5.1(A) of the Mississippi State Board of Examiners for Licensed Professional Counselors Rules and Regulations.

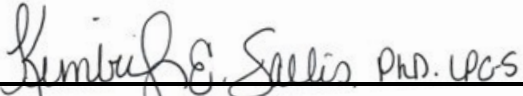
**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that this decision and opinion shall be a final order of the Board and shall be conclusive evidence of the matters described herein.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that this action of the Board shall be public record. It may be shared with other licensing boards (in-and out-of-state) and the public 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.

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

**SO ORDERED**, this the 8th day of September, 2023.

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

  
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**Kimberly Elam Sallis, PhD, LPC-S, Chair**  
**By and for the Board**