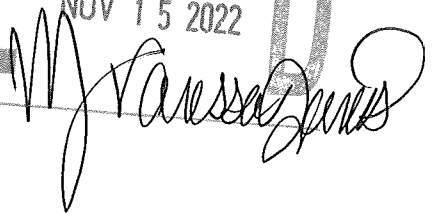


COMMONWEALTH OF
KENTUCKY BOARD OF
SOCIAL WORK
CASE NO. 17-20

ENTERED
NOV 15 2022
BY: 

IN RE: THE LICENSE TO PRACTICE SOCIAL WORK IN THE COMMONWEALTH
OF KENTUCKY HELD BY STEPHANIE M. GWALTNEY, LCSW, LICENSE
NO. 3200

AGREED ORDER

Come now the Kentucky Board of Social Work (hereinafter "the board"), and STEPHANIE M. GWALTNEY, LCSW (hereinafter "licensee"), by and through counsel, and, based upon their mutual desire to fully and finally resolve this pending matter in an expeditious manner, without the need for an evidentiary hearing pursuant to KRS 335.155, hereby ENTER INTO the following **AGREED ORDER:**

STIPULATION OF FACTS

The parties stipulate the following facts, which serve as the factual bases for this Agreed Order:

1. At all relevant times, Stephanie M. Gwaltney, LCSW, was licensed by the board to practice social work within the Commonwealth of Kentucky;
2. On or about September 14, 2017, the board received a written complaint from Clarissa Ragland. Ms. Ragland stated that she was a case manager and received a phone call from a former client, David Beckmann. Ms. Ragland stated that Mr. Beckmann stated that he had been romantically involved with the licensee, who was at one point his counselor. Mr. Beckmann claimed that he and Ms. Gwaltney were in a relationship from 2014 until September 2017.

3. On or about November 9, 2017, the licensee responded through counsel, acknowledging that the licensee previously provided counseling services to Mr. Beckman and that she thereafter began a consensual personal relationship with Mr. Beckman, which lasted from 2014 to 2017.

**STIPULATED CONCLUSIONS
OF LAW**

The parties stipulate the following Conclusions of Law, which serve as the legal bases for this Agreed Order:

1. The licensee's Kentucky social work license is subject to regulation and discipline by the board.
2. The licensee is alleged to have engaged in conduct which violates the provisions of KRS 335.150(1)(g) and 201 KAR 23:080, Sections 2, 3, and 11. Accordingly, there are legal grounds for the parties to enter into this Agreed Order.
3. Pursuant to KRS 335.150(4), the parties may fully and finally resolve this pending matter without an evidentiary hearing by entering into informal resolution such as this Agreed Order.

AGREED ORDER

Based upon the foregoing Stipulation of Facts and Stipulated Conclusions of Law, and based upon their mutual desire to fully and finally resolve this pending investigation without an evidentiary hearing, the parties ENTER INTO the following AGREED ORDER:

1. The licensee agrees to surrender her license and understands that the board shall treat the surrender of her license as if it was revoked.
2. The license to practice social work in the Commonwealth of Kentucky held by STEPHANIE M. GWALTNEY, LCSW No. 3200, is SURRENDERED AS IF REVOKED FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS, effective immediately upon the entry of this order;
3. During the effective period of this Agreed Order, the licensee SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF RESTRICTION until further orders of the board:
 - a. The licensee SHALL NOT engage in the practice of social work or otherwise provide social work services unless and until approved to do so by this board;

and
 - b. The licensee SHALL NOT violate any provision of KRS 335.010 – 335.160 and 201 KAR 23:080.
4. The licensee freely and voluntarily enters into this Agreed Order, motivated by a desire to resolve the issues addressed herein, and has executed this Agreed Order only after a careful reading of it and consultation with her attorney, and a full understanding of all of its terms. The licensee is fully aware of and expressly waives the right to contest charges in a formal hearing pursuant to KRS 335.155, the right to obtain judicial review of the board's decision, and the right to appeal any final order of the board to the Franklin Circuit Court as otherwise allowed by KRS 335.155(3).
5. The licensee acknowledges the board has jurisdiction over the licensee and the conduct which precipitated this Agreed Order; that the board has the legal power to take disciplinary action up to and including revocation of the licensee's license to

practice social work in Kentucky; and the licensee further acknowledges the board shall retain jurisdiction over this matter until all terms and conditions set forth in this Agreed Order have been met to the satisfaction of the board.

6. Pursuant to KRS 335.150 (2), the licensee may petition the board for reinstatement five (5) years from the date of the entry of this order. The board shall investigate the petition and may reinstate the license upon a finding that the licensee has complied with terms prescribed by the board and is again able to engage competently and ethically in the practice of social work.
7. This Agreed Order is considered a public document, available for inspection at any time by any member of the public under the Kentucky Open Records Act.
8. The licensee expressly understands that any violation of the terms of this Agreed Order shall provide the legal basis for additional disciplinary action, and shall constitute failure to comply with an order of the board under KRS 335.150(1)(f), and for which the board may impose additional penalties available under law after notice and an opportunity to be heard.
9. This Agreed Order shall be governed in all respects, whether as to validity, construction, capacity, performance or otherwise, in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Furthermore:

- a. Any dispute arising hereunder shall be settled by a state court of appropriate jurisdiction in Franklin County, Kentucky. The parties irrevocably consent to the personal jurisdiction and venue of such court.
- b. This Agreed Order may not be modified except by a written agreement signed by the parties.

10. In consideration of execution of this Agreed Order, the licensee, the licensee's executors, administrators, successors and assigns, hereby release and forever discharge the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Board of Social Work, and each of its members, agents, and employees in their individual and representative capacities, from any and all manner of actions, causes of action, suits, debts, judgments, executions, claims and demands whatsoever, known and unknown, the licensee ever had, now has, may have or claim to have against any or all of the persons or entities named in this paragraph arising out of or by reason of this investigation, this disciplinary action, this Agreed Order, or its administration.

Upon consideration of this Agreed Order, it is hereby ORDERED that the terms of this Agreed Order are approved and adopted.

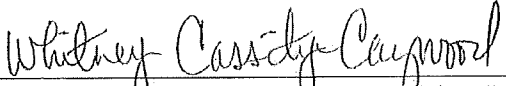
SO ORDERED on this 15th day of November, 2022.

FOR THE LICENSEE:

Stephanie Holland (Gwaltney) Date 11/10, 2022
STEPHANIE M. GWALTNEY

Sean Ragland Date 11/14, 2022
SEAN RAGLAND, ATTORNEY AT LAW
Counsel for Licensee

FOR THE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK:


WHITNEY CASSITY-CAYWOOD, PhD, LCSW
VICE-CHAIR, KENTUCKY BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK


HON. NICOLE S. BEARSE
Counsel, Kentucky Board of Social Work