

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
KENTUCKY BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
AGENCY CASE NO. 2018-37
ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION NO. 19-KBSW-0160**

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY,
BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK

PETITIONER

vs.

AGREED ORDER

LORITA SNOWDEN, CSW,
LICENSE NO. 252762

RESPONDENT

Come the parties, the Kentucky Board of Social Work (the "Board") and Lorita Snowden, CSW ("Licensee"), by and through the undersigned counsel, and both having been fully informed regarding the matters set forth herein and desiring to settle this matter without the necessity of a hearing on the merits, do hereby agree as follows:

STIPULATION OF FACTS

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

1. At all relevant times, Lorita Snowden was licensed by the Board as a certified social worker (CSW) to practice social work within the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
2. On or about December 7, 2018, the Board received a self-report complaint alleging the Licensee was a licensed social worker with a foster care agency and had entered into a dual relationship with a minor client who she and her husband want to adopt.
3. As this was a self-report complaint, no response was required. The Licensee reported that she had provided therapy for the child for several months, explained the child had experienced several placements and disappointments in her life and could not be

maintained in her then foster home. Licensee reported she and her husband want to adopt the child and the Licensee approached the child about adopting her. The Licensee terminated social work services to the child for the then purpose of providing a foster home with the goal of adopting the child, stating that "I feel like this is a decision God has asked me and my husband to make."

4. Licensee reported that she spoke with her supervisor of record, who informed the Licensee that this was a dual relationship and who later removed herself as a supervisor of record as a result. In her self-report, Licensee requested the Board make an exception for her violation of the Code of Ethical Conduct.
5. The Licensee, in her complaint, stated that she understands that this client interaction violates her ethical duties as she had a professional social work relationship with the child but explained that she and her husband want to offer the child a safe and loving home, and that she has left her employment with the foster care agency and is providing treatment in a substance abuse rehabilitation program, which is unrelated to foster care.
6. The Board assigned an investigator to interview witnesses and gather information regarding the complaint and resulting in a final investigative report being submitted to the Board. This report confirms the facts in the Licensee's complaint and establishes that the Licensee began her new role in addiction counseling on December 20, 2018, prior to beginning to foster the child on or about February 1, 2019.
7. The Board's complaint committee reviewed the case file and recommended an agreed order to resolve this matter, in lieu of the issuance of a formal complaint and notice of

evidentiary hearing. The Board approved the terms of the agreed order by unanimous vote.

8. 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. Based upon the Stipulation of Facts, the Licensee has engaged in conduct which violates the provisions of KRS 335.150(1)(g) and 201 KAR 23:080, Section 11 and Section 12(4)(c). Accordingly, there are legal grounds for the parties to enter into this Agreed Order.
3. Licensee agrees the Board may take disciplinary action against Licensee pursuant to KRS 335.150(1)(e) and (g) for entering into a dual relationship as prohibited in the Code of Ethical Conduct 201 KAR 23:080 Section 11 and Section 12(4)(c).
4. Pursuant to KRS 335.150(4), the parties may fully and finally resolve this pending matter without the filing of a formal complaint and 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, and in a manner, which effectively satisfies the complaint, the parties ENTER INTO the following AGREED ORDER:

1. Licensee's license shall be suspended for two and one-half (2.5) years from the agreed upon date of January 1, 2019.
2. Any supervision hours, which were obtained under a valid clinical supervision contract, prior to the date that the suspension is effective may be retained by the Licensee. Any supervision hours obtained after the suspension effective date will not be applied to the Licensee's total cumulative supervision hours.
3. Licensee shall pay an administrative fine in the amount of \$350.00.
4. The Board shall find that Licensee generally violated 201 KAR 23:080 Section 11.
5. Licensee agrees to abide by the foregoing terms and conditions. Licensee agrees that violation of these terms shall be considered a violation of a Board Order and subject to disciplinary action pursuant to KRS 335.150(1)(f).
6. 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).
7. 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 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.

8. 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.
9. This matter shall constitute disciplinary action, which is reportable under state or federal law, specifically the National Practitioner Data Bank.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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 20th day of March 2020.

HAVE SEEN AND AGREED:

KENTUCKY BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK

Jay Miller, Ph.D., CSW

Jay Miller
Jay Miller, Ph.D., MSW, CSW
Chairman of the Board

3/20/20
Date

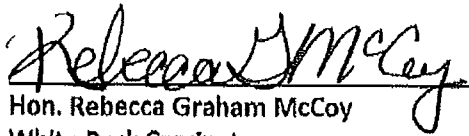
Nicole S. Bearse
Hon. Nicole S. Bearse
Johnson Bearse, LLP
326 West Main Street
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
Attorney for the Board

3/20/19
Date

LICENSEE

Lorita Snowden CSW
Lorita Snowden, CSW
Licensee

3/20/20
Date


Hon. Rebecca Graham McCoy

White Peck Carrington

P.O. Box 950

Mount Sterling, Kentucky 40353

Attorney for Licensee

3/20/2020
Date

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the Agreed Order were mailed by regular first-class mail on this the 24th day of March 2020, to:

Ms. Lorita Snowden

544 Highland Avenue

Mount Sterling, Kentucky 40353

Licensee

Hon. Rebecca Graham McCoy

White Peck Carrington

P.O. Box 950

Mount Sterling, Kentucky 40353

Attorney for Licensee

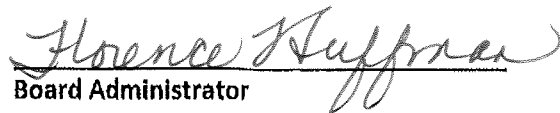
Hon. Nicole S. Bearse

Johnson Bearse, LLP

326 West Main Street

Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Attorney for the Board


Board Administrator