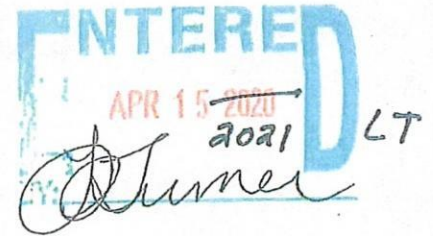




BY: _____ COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
CASE NO. 19-31



IN RE: THE LICENSE TO PRACTICE SOCIAL WORK IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
HELD BY ASHLEY MERRILL, LCSW, LICENSE NO. 253630

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND FINAL ORDER OF REVOCATION

Come now the Kentucky Board of Social Work (hereinafter "the board"), having considered the "Hearing Officer's Findings of Fact; Conclusions of Law and Recommended Order," the lack of the filing of any exceptions by the Licensee related to the same, and hereby ORDERS the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

The board finds the following facts, which serve as the factual bases for this Order:

1. Ashley Merrill (hereinafter "Licensee") is a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) and was duly licensed by the board on September 21, 2019.
2. The board received a complaint on June 19, 2019 alleging that Licensee was engaged in a dual relationship with a client in violation of KRS 335.150 and 201 KAR 23:080, Sections 1, 2, 3 and 11.
3. The board is authorized to take action pursuant to KRS 335.150 and KRS 335.155 and filed an Administrative Complaint and Notice of Hearing on June 30, 2020. The case was assigned to Hearing Officer James Dickinson on July 9, 2020 pursuant to KRS Chapter 13B.
4. The Hearing Officer's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Recommended Order was entered on December 2, 2020 and is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

5. The board otherwise incorporates by reference all findings of fact contained within the Hearing Officer's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Recommended Order.

6. No exceptions have been filed related to the Hearing Officer's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Recommended Order and the Licensee's time to file exceptions, pursuant to KRS 13B.110(4) has expired.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The board makes the following Conclusions of Law, which serve as the legal bases for this Order:

1. During the period from September 21, 2019 to the present, Licensee's Kentucky social work license was active and subject to regulation and discipline by the board.

2. Pursuant to 201 KAR 23:080 Sections 1, 2, 3 and 11, dual relationships between a licensed social worker and a client are prohibited.

3. Based upon the findings of fact herein, the licensee has engaged in conduct that violates the provisions of KRS 335.150 and 201 KAR 23:080, Sections 1, 2, 3 and 11. Accordingly, there are legal grounds to enter into this Order.

4. KRS 13B.120 requires the board to consider the record, including the recommended order of the hearing officer and any duly filed exceptions to the recommended order, of which there are none in this case. The board has fulfilled its obligation to do the same.

FINAL ORDER

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the board Orders as follows:

1. The Hearing Officer's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Recommended Order is adopted in full as a final order of the board. The licensee agrees to

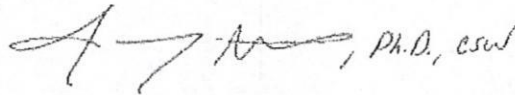
2. The Licensee, Ashley Merrill's license, LCSW License No. 253630 is hereby revoked in accordance with KRS 335.150(1).

3. The board will report this matter to any other jurisdiction in which Ms. Merrill is, or has previously been, licensed.

4. The Licensee may not petition the board for reinstatement for a period of five (5) years from the date of issuance of this order pursuant to KRS 335.150(2).

5. This is a final and appealable order and may be appealed to the Franklin Circuit Court, pursuant to KRS 335.155(3).

SO ORDERED on this 13th day of April 2021.



DR. JUSTIN "JAY" MILLER, MSW, CSW, PhD
CHAIR, KENTUCKY BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK

DRAFTED BY:

/S/ Nicole S. Bearse
HON. NICOLE S. BEARSE
ATTORNEY, BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the Agreed Order were mailed by regular first class mail on this 15th day of April 2021, to:

Ashley Merrill
4535 Church Street
Taylor Mill, Kentucky 41015

Ashley Merrill
50 Andover Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45218


Board Administrator