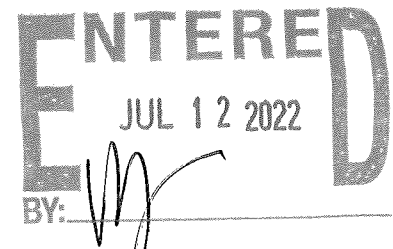


COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
CASE NO. 22-01



**IN RE: THE LICENSE TO PRACTICE SOCIAL WORK IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
HELD BY JENNIFER A. THORNTON, LCSW, LICENSE NO. 3271**

AGREED ORDER

Come now the Kentucky Board of Social Work (hereinafter “the board”), and Jennifer A. Thornton (hereinafter “Licensee”), and, based upon their mutual desire to fully and finally resolve this pending matter in an expeditious manner, without the need for filing a formal complaint and notice of 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. Jennifer A. Thornton was duly licensed by the board to practice clinical social work within the Commonwealth of Kentucky upon issuance of her license on November 26, 2008.
2. On or about December 20, 2021, the board received a written complaint filed by Anna Humes, LCSW, Patricia Gunning, LCSW and Nikki Fangman, LPCC, all of MEBS Counseling (hereinafter “Complainants”), stating that Licensee had been struggling with personal life circumstances that led to struggles with scheduling, timelines, paperwork, and billing. Complainants stated that their agency had voided several questionable billing entries and returned funds received.

3. On or about February 7, 2022, the Board received a response from Licensee in which she stated that she had in fact had a family medical emergency which resulted in her struggling to maintain her professional practice. Licensee stated that she attempted to maintain ethical practice and resigned when she realized that she was unable to do so. Licensee was forthcoming regarding her struggles and the steps that she had taken to address them, which was noted and appreciated by the Board.

4. On March 8, 2022, 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.

STIPULATED CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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

1. During the period from November 26, 2008, to the present, Licensee's Kentucky social work license was active and subject to regulation and discipline by the board.

2. Pursuant to KRS 335.150(s), the Board may impose disciplinary conditions upon Licensee for actions that violate any statute or regulation pertaining to the practice of social work.

3. Based upon the Stipulation of Facts, the licensee has engaged in conduct that violates the provisions of KRS 335.150(1)(d)(e) and (g) and 201 KAR 23:080, Section 3. Accordingly, there are legal grounds for the parties to enter into this Agreed Order.

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 matter without an evidentiary hearing, the parties ENTER INTO the following AGREED ORDER:

1. The licensee agrees to complete a total of eleven (11) continuing education hours and provide certificates of completion to the Board of the same. Topical content shall include the following:

- a. Ethical Slippery Slopes: From Good Intentions to Blurred Boundaries (3 hrs)
- b. Self-Care for Social Workers: Personal and Professional Supports for Sustainability (1 hr)
- c. Burnout and Wellness in Social Workers, Psychologists and Counselors (4 hrs)
- d. Additional board approved course on ethical billing practices (3 hrs)

2. Licensee SHALL NOT further violate any provision of KRS 335.010 – 335.160 and 201 KAR 23:080.

3. 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 an attorney of her choosing should she so desire, and a full understanding of all of its terms; that she 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).

4. Licensee acknowledges the board has jurisdiction over the licensee and the conduct that 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.

5. 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.

6. This matter shall constitute disciplinary action that may be reportable under state or federal law.

7. 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.

8. 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.

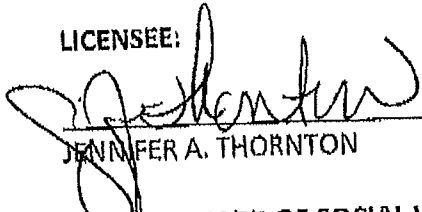
b. This Agreed Order may not be modified except by a written agreement signed by the parties.

9. In consideration of execution of this Agreed Order, Licensee, her 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.

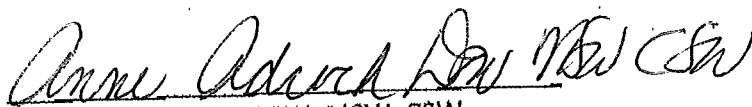
SO ORDERED on this 8 day of July 2022.

LICENSEE:


JENNIFER A. THORNTON

Date 7-8- 2022

FOR THE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK:

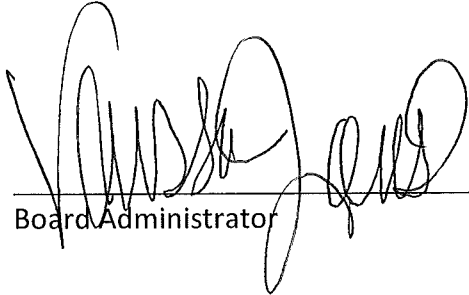

DR. ANNE ADCOCK, DSW, MSW, CSW
CHAIR, KENTUCKY BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK


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 1st day of July 2022, to:

Ms. Jennifer A. Thornton, LCSW
167 Ridgewood Drive
Alexandria Kentucky 41001
Licensee



Board Administrator