



KENTUCKY BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
125 Holmes Street, Suite 310
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
(502) 564-2350



Andy Beshear
Governor

Marc Kelly
Executive Director

**Commonwealth of Kentucky
Board of Social Work
Agency Case No. 2023-050**

**Commonwealth of Kentucky,
Board of Social Work**

Complainant

Order

**Richard Bruggman, LCSW
(Lic. No. 1832(expired))**

Respondent

* * * * *

The Kentucky Board of Social Work, having met on April 20, 2026, and having voted on the above-styled case, hereby adopts and incorporates the attached Settlement Agreement as an Order of the Board.

It is so ordered.

Dated this 20th day of April, 2026.

Kentucky Board of Social Work

By: Hank Cecil
Hank Cecil, LCSW, Chair

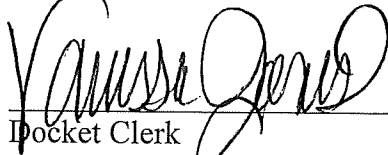
Certificate of Service

I hereby certify a true and accurate copy of the foregoing Order and Settlement Agreement was served by e-mail or was mailed as indicated below by first-class postage prepaid, this 20th day of April, 2026, to:

Richard Bruggman, LCSW (expired)
3114 Hendon Road
Louisville, Kentucky 40220
Respondent

William H. Brammell, Jr., Attorney at Law
Wicker/Brammell PLLC
323 West Main Street, 11th Floor
Louisville, Kentucky 40202
(E-mail: Bill@WickerBrammell.com)
Attorney for Respondent

Mark R. Brengelman, Attorney at Law, PLLC
306 West Main Street
The McClure Building, Suite 503
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-1840
(E-mail: Mark@MarkRBrengelmanPLLC.attorney)
Board Counsel

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vanessa Jones", is written over a horizontal line.

Pocket Clerk
Kentucky Board of Social Work

met 4/25/24

**Commonwealth of Kentucky
Board of Social Work
Case No. 2023-050**

**In Re: The License to Practice Social Work in the Commonwealth of Kentucky
held by Richard Bruggman, LCSW, License No. 1832**

Settlement Agreement

The Kentucky Board of Social Work ("the Board"), and Richard Bruggman, LCSW ("the Respondent"), based upon their mutual desire to resolve fully and finally 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 the following Settlement Agreement and Agreed Order ("Settlement Agreement"):

Stipulation of Facts

The parties stipulate to the following facts, which serve as the factual bases for this Settlement Agreement:

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was duly licensed by the Board to practice social work within the Commonwealth of Kentucky, License No. 1832, except as otherwise specified herein that the Respondent's license to practice expired for non-renewal on September 15, 2024, and that the Respondent has not practiced social work as that term is defined in KRS 335.020(2) since that time;
2. On or about August 30, 2023, the Board received an Initiating Complaint from M.S. (hereafter "Complainant"), whose identity is known to the Respondent, stating the Respondent had entered into a personal and sexually intimate relationship with the Complainant beginning in December of 2020 and while the Respondent was a patient or client

of the Respondent;

3. The Complainant further alleged the Respondent had harmed the Complainant mentally, emotionally, and physically through this inappropriate, dual relationship;

4. On or about October 27, 2023, the Board received a written response from the Respondent, by counsel William H. Brammell, Jr., Attorney at law, where the Respondent acknowledged an improper relationship with the Complainant, detailed a tragic series of events that led up to the formation of that inappropriate, dual relationship, contested some details of the Initiating Complaint, and expressed the Respondent's regret.

Stipulated Conclusions of Law

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

1. During all times relevant to this action, the Respondent's Kentucky social work license was active and subject to regulation and discipline by the Board, except as otherwise stated herein;

2. Pursuant to 201 KAR 23:080 § 3, a licensee shall promote the well-being of a client;

3. Pursuant to 201 KAR 23:080 §§ 1 and 11, a social worker shall not enter into a dual relationship with a client if the relationship might impair the social worker's professional judgment, incur a risk of exploitation of the client, or otherwise violate 201 KAR 23:080;

4. Pursuant to 201 KAR 23:080 § 5, a social worker shall not provide a social work service to a client under the influence of psychological illness which impairs delivery of the service;

5. Pursuant to 201 KAR 23:080 § 11, a social worker shall not engage in sexual intimacy or contact with a client or former client;

6. Based upon the Stipulation of Facts, the Respondent admits the Respondent has engaged in conduct that violates the provisions of KRS 335.150(1)(g) and 201 KAR 23:080 §§ (1), (3), (5), and (11). Accordingly, there are legal grounds for the parties to enter into this Settlement Agreement;

7. 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 Settlement Agreement.

Agreed Order

Based upon the foregoing Stipulation of Facts and Stipulated Conclusions of Law, and based upon their mutual desire to resolve fully and finally this pending matter without an evidentiary hearing, the parties enter into the following Settlement Agreement and Agreed Order:

1. The Respondent agrees the Respondent's license is hereby voluntarily surrendered as if revoked starting effective retroactive to September 15, 2024;

2. The Respondent shall be subject to the following terms and conditions as a revoked credential holder of the Board:

- a. The Respondent shall not engage in the practice of social work as that term is defined in KRS 335.020(2), and otherwise shall not provide a social work service unless and until approved to do so by this Board;
- b. The Respondent shall not violate any provision of KRS 335.010-335.160 and 201 KAR 23:080;

3. Pursuant to KRS 335.150(2), or any successor statute, if any, five (5) years from the date of a revocation of September 15, 2024, the Respondent may petition the Board for reinstatement; the Board shall investigate the petition and may reinstate the license upon a finding that the Respondent has complied with the terms prescribed by the Board in this Settlement Agreement, and that the Respondent is again able to engage competently in the practice of social work;

4. If the Respondent's license is reinstated, as set forth above, the Respondent may engage in the practice of social work as that term is defined in KRS 335.020(2), and otherwise may provide a social work services under terms approved to do so by this Board, which shall include the terms and conditions set forth in ¶¶ 6 and 8, below;

5. Not less than four (4) months prior to the intended start date of the resumption of the practice of social work, the Respondent shall undergo a psychological evaluation examination under the provisions of 201 KAR 23:150 § 12(2) as follows:

- a. by any of the three (3) licensed psychologists designated by the Board, below, to determine the Respondent's mental health status to practice social work, specifically, whether the Respondent is physically or mentally incapable of practicing social work with reasonable skill and safety to clients and to determine whether the Respondent is capable of providing social work services in a competent, safe, ethical, and professional manner in accord with KRS 335.010 to 335.160 and 201 KAR Chapter 23, and;
- b. with the cost to be paid by the Respondent, and;
- c. by any of the following licensed psychologists designated by the Board to perform the examination or other licensed psychologists designated by the Board if any of the following are not available or are unwilling to act:

W. Kent Hicks, Ed.D., Licensed Psychologist, or designee of Dr. Hicks
Raskin & Associates Psychology Resource Group
7400 New LaGrange Road Suite 312
Louisville, Kentucky 40222
Office Phone: (502) 394-9990

Website: https://drraskinandassociates.com/our_team.html

or

Byron White, Psy.D., Licensed Psychologist, or designee of Dr. White

Edelson and Associates

7511 New LaGrange Road

Louisville, Kentucky 40222

Office Phone: (502) 423-1151

Website: <https://edelsonandassociates.info/child-adolescent-clinicans/>

or

Edward J. Connor, Psy.D., Licensed Psychologist, or

Sara Beth Jones-Connor, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist

Connor and Associates Psychological Services, PLLC

Ashley Place

3005 Dixie Highway, Suite 250

Edgewood, Kentucky 41017

Office Phone: (859) 484-8884

Website: <https://connorpsych.com/>

- d. the Respondent shall agree to permit and cooperate with the Board, its members, agents, and employees, to monitor the Respondent's compliance with these provisions, § 4(a)-(d), including signing any releases for medical or mental health records necessary for the examination; a copy of the evaluation shall be filed by the Respondent with the Board contemporaneously when provided to the Respondent;

6. The Respondent shall be assessed an administrative fine in the amount of \$10,000.00 which shall be fully probated;

A) and not paid by the Respondent so long as the Respondent complies with all terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement and does not apply for reinstatement, or;

B) paid by the Respondent prior to the application, if any, for reinstatement of the license pursuant to ¶ 3, above, by certified check or money order made payable to the "Kentucky State Treasurer" and mailed or delivered to the Board;

7. The Respondent agrees that under KRS 335.150(5) upon proof substantiating that sexual contact occurred between the Respondent licensed by the Board and a client while the client was under the care of, or in a professional relationship with, the Respondent, the Board may require the Respondent to pay a specified amount for mental health services for the client which are needed as a result of the sexual contact. However, the Board, in consultation with M.S., and the Respondent agree that M.S. has not incurred any direct, out-of-pocket payment(s) to any mental health practitioner for those mental health services for M.S. that were needed as a result of the sexual contact; therefore, the Board and the Respondent agree that this particular remedy under KRS 335.150(5) is inapplicable;

8. If the Respondent's license to practice social work in the Commonwealth of Kentucky is reinstated per KRS 335.150(2), or any successor statute, and consistent with compliance of the terms and conditions of ¶¶ 3, 4, and 5, then the Respondent shall be subject to the clinical Supervision of the Respondent during a four (4) year period of probation starting from the date of reinstatement:

- a. The Board shall appoint an approved clinical supervisor to supervise the Respondent for the period of time defined by the Board, who shall be a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in good standing;
- b. The Respondent shall be responsible for paying the fee for clinical supervision;
- c. The clinical supervisor shall have completed the Board approved training course in supervision;
- d. The clinical supervisor shall:
 - 1) Review the Settlement Agreement;
 - 2) Meet with the Respondent and a Board Representative to:
 - 1. Summarize the actions and concerns of the Board;
 - 2. Review the goals and expected outcomes of clinical supervision

submitted by the Board representative;

3. Develop a specific plan of clinical supervision; and

4. Review the reporting requirements that shall be met during the period of clinical supervision;

- 3) Meet with the Respondent at least weekly, on an individual face-to-face basis for a minimum of one (1) hour unless modified by the Board;
- 4) Submit a quarterly report to the Board which reflects progress, problems, and other information relevant to the need for Board-mandated supervision;
- 5) Make all reasonable efforts to ensure the Respondent's practice is in compliance with KRS Chapter 335 and 201 KAR Chapter 23;
- 6) Report to the Board any apparent violation of KRS Chapter 335 or 201 KAR Chapter 23 on the part of the Respondent;
- 7) Immediately report to the Board in writing a change in the ability of the clinical supervisor to clinically supervise, or in the ability of the Respondent to function in the practice of social work in a competent manner;
- 8) Review and countersign social work assessments and evaluations as needed or appropriate;
- 9) Review treatment plans, notes, and correspondence as needed or appropriate;
- 10) Have direct observation of the Respondent's work on an as-needed basis;
- 11) Have direct knowledge of the size and complexity of the Respondent's caseload;
- 12) Have knowledge of the therapeutic modalities and techniques being used by the Respondent; and
- 13) Have knowledge of the Respondent's physical and emotional well-being when it has direct bearing on the Respondent's competence to practice;
- 14) Control, direct, or limit the Respondent's practice of social work as appropriate to ensure the Respondent's practice is competent;
- 15) Contact the Board representative with any concern or problem with the Respondent, the Respondent's practice of social work, or the clinical supervision process;

16) Schedule a final meeting to be held within thirty (30) days of the end of the established four (4) year period of supervision to summarize the clinical supervision; the meeting shall include the clinical supervisor, the Respondent, and Board Representative; a written summary of the clinical supervision shall be submitted by the clinical supervisor to the Board two (2) weeks following this meeting with a copy to the Board Representative;

9. The Respondent permanently and irrevocably waives the Respondent's right to appeal from this Settlement Agreement, notwithstanding any provision of KRS Chapter 335 or other relevant statute or regulation.

10. The Respondent has had the opportunity to seek advice from competent counsel of Respondent's choosing. No coercion has been exerted upon the Respondent, nor have any promises been made other than those reflected in this Agreement. The Respondent knowingly and voluntarily enters into this Settlement Agreement, motivated only by a desire to resolve the issues addressed herein, and has executed this Settlement Agreement only after a careful reading of it, and consultation with a competent attorney of the Respondent's own choosing if the Respondent so desires, and a full understanding of all of its terms. The Respondent 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 counsel at the Respondent's expense, the right to present evidence on the Respondent's behalf, the right to compulsory process to secure the attendance of witnesses, the right to testify on the Respondent's own behalf, the right to receive written findings of fact and conclusions of law supporting the Board's decision on the merits of the Formal Complaint, 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). All of these rights are being knowingly, voluntarily, and freely waived by the Respondent with

acceptance and execution of this agreement by the Respondent;

11. The Respondent acknowledges the Board has jurisdiction over the Respondent and the conduct that precipitated this Settlement Agreement; that the Board has the legal power to take disciplinary action up to and including revocation of the Respondent's license to practice social work in Kentucky and the issuance of an administrative fine; and the Respondent further acknowledges the Board shall retain jurisdiction over this matter until all terms and conditions set forth in this Settlement Agreement have been met to the satisfaction of the Board;

12. The Respondent acknowledges that, once adopted by the Board, this Settlement Agreement is considered a public document, available for inspection at any time by any member of the public under the Kentucky Open Records Act. Further, the Respondent understands that the Board is free to use this Settlement Agreement in any manner not prohibited by statute or administrative regulation;

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

14. In exchange for the Board's agreement to settle its claims against Respondent, and for other valuable consideration named in this Settlement Agreement, the Respondent and the Respondent's executors, administrators, successors and assigns, hereby release and forever discharge the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Board, and the Board's members, employees, attorneys, contractors, and other agents of the Board, in their official, individual, representative, and personal capacities, from any and all manner of actions, causes of action, suits, debts, judgments, executions, claims and demands whatsoever, known and unknown, in

law or equity, that the Respondent 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 Settlement Agreement, or any fact or occurrence up to the date of entry by the Board of this Settlement Agreement;

15. It is hereby agreed between the parties that this Settlement Agreement shall be presented to the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting. The Respondent acknowledges that the Board is free to accept or reject this Agreement and that if it is rejected by the Board, a formal disciplinary hearing on the accusation against the Respondent may be rescheduled thereafter. The Respondent waives any right the Respondent might have to challenge the Board's impartiality or competence to conduct a disciplinary hearing on the basis of the negotiation and drafting of this Settlement Agreement. If the Settlement Agreement is not accepted by the Board, it shall be regarded as null and void. Admissions by the Respondent in the Settlement Agreement will not be permitted as evidence against the Respondent at the subsequent disciplinary hearing. Any term or condition of this Settlement Agreement shall not be permitted as evidence for or against the Board at any subsequent disciplinary hearing. No inferences shall be made from the Respondent's or the Board's willingness to enter into this Settlement Agreement. The Settlement Agreement shall not be submitted for Board consideration until after it has been agreed to and executed by the Respondent. The Settlement Agreement shall not become effective until it has been approved by the Board and signed by a member of the Board. The date of entry of an Order of the Board adopting this Settlement Agreement shall be the effective date of the Settlement Agreement;

16. The Respondent expressly understands any violation of the terms of this

Settlement Agreement 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, including judicial enforcement against the Respondent in the circuit court of venue. The parties agree the Franklin Circuit Court shall be the sole forum for the adjudication in court of any disputes arising from this Settlement Agreement or its execution. The parties further agree any such disputes shall be adjudicated by application of the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Notwithstanding the above, the parties agree any alleged failure of the Respondent to comply with any term or condition of this Settlement Agreement may result in a subsequent Notice of Administrative Hearing and Show Cause Order being filed by the Board under KRS Chapters 13B and 335 stating the alleged failure to comply; the parties further agree the Board may not proceed under 201 KAR 23:150 § 1-5, but may proceed directly to 201 KAR 23:150 § 6 if the Board or its Executive Director or its designee warrants the issuance of an administrative charge against the Respondent for the alleged failure to comply with any term or condition of this Settlement Agreement. The Respondent agrees to pay the Board reasonable attorney's fees if the Board prevails, in whole or in part, in any such legal proceeding to enforce or to defend any aspect of this Settlement Agreement whether in an administrative hearing before the Board or in the Franklin Circuit Court;

17. The Respondent agrees to permit and cooperate with the Board, its members, agents, and employees to monitor the Respondent's compliance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement;

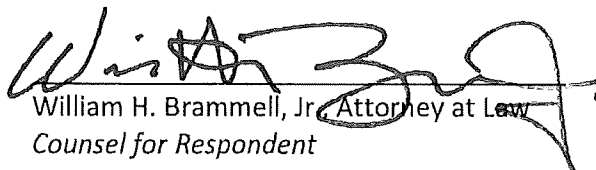
18. This Settlement Agreement consists of twelve (12) pages, and embodies the

entire agreement between the Board and the Respondent. This Settlement Agreement shall constitute a binding contract between the Respondent and the Board. The Respondent shall not rescind, revoke, or withdraw this Settlement Agreement following the Respondent's execution thereof and prior to its presentation to the Board for approval. It may not be altered, amended, or modified without the express written consent of both parties.

The Respondent:


Richard Bruggman, LCSW

Date April 17th 2026


William H. Brammell, Jr., Attorney at Law
Counsel for Respondent

Date April 17, 2026

For the Board of Social Work:


Chair, Kentucky Board of Social Work


April 20, 2026
Mark R. Brengelman, Attorney at Law
Board Counsel