



a LCSW by checking a box titled "Clinical Social Worker" and adding "LSCW" after her signature. Respondent also provided a letter of recommendation, dated December 2009, and included the letters "LCSW" after her signature. Respondent's license has been inactive since 2002.

In response, respondent submitted a letter to the Board and admitted to filling out the "Documentation of Supervised Counseling Experience" form and writing the letter of recommendation. Respondent claimed she was approached by a former colleague who respondent had supervised as part of her duties as a school social worker; the colleague wanted to include the hours as part of the supervision required for licensure. Respondent says she informed her former colleague that her LCSW license was currently inactive, and was not sure whether she satisfied the requirements to be a supervisor. Respondent advised that her colleague was supposed to check with the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee to see if the Committee would accept the supervision hours. Respondent stated that she did not think it was a problem because she had not heard anything further from the former colleague.

Having reviewed the entire record, including Respondent's written response and documents submitted to the Board, it appears to the Board that by placing the initials "LCSW" after her name and checking the box providing her license number,

respondent was holding herself out as an active licensed clinical social worker; nowhere on the form or in the letter respondent submitted does she indicate that her license is on inactive status. Respondent's conduct constitutes a violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-7.3 (now codified at N.J.S.A. 45:1-7.1(f)), N.J.S.A. 45:15BB-4 and N.J.A.C. 13:44G-7.1(b), and provides a basis for disciplinary action against her license to practice clinical social work in the State of New Jersey pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h). The parties desiring to resolve this matter without recourse to formal proceedings, and respondent having waived her right to a hearing in this matter, and the Board finding that entry of this Order adequately protects the public health, safety, and welfare, for good cause shown:

IT IS THEREFORE ON THIS <sup>9<sup>th</sup></sup> DAY OF *September* 2015,

**HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:**

1. Respondent is hereby assessed civil penalties, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-25, in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for the conduct described above. Payment shall be by certified check, bank check, money order, wire transfer, or credit card payable to the State of New Jersey, delivered to J. Michael Walker, Executive Director, State Board of Social Work Examiners, P.O. Box 45033, New Jersey 07101, contemporaneously with the signing of this Order. If a form of payment is presented other than the approved forms above, it

will be rejected and returned to respondent. Subsequent violations will subject respondent to enhanced penalties pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-25.

2. Respondent shall not engage in clinical social work or represent herself as, hold herself out as, or advertise herself as a licensed clinical social worker unless and until Respondent possesses an active license to practice clinical social work in the State of New Jersey.

3. Failure to comply with the terms of this Order will result in further disciplinary action and the filing of a certificate of debt.

NEW JERSEY BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

By: Dawn Apgar  
Dawn Apgar, Ph.D., LSW, ACSW  
Board President

I have read and understood the foregoing Order and agree to be bound by its terms. Consent is hereby given to the Board of Social Work Examiners to enter this Order.

Linda A. Eckert, MSW  
Linda Eckert, LCSW

8/17/2015  
Date