

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS**

**IN THE MATTER OF
RYAN CARPER
LMSW LICENSE NO. 14314**

COMPLAINT NO. 2024-136

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

WHEREAS, Ryan Carper (“Mr. Carper”) is a credentialed social worker subject to the jurisdiction and the rules and regulations of the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners (“Board” or “LABSWE”);

WHEREAS, the Board received a complaint against Mr. Carper wherein it was alleged that Mr. Carper falsified documentation for three (3) patient visits in May 2024 for which he received mileage and billing was paid;

WHEREAS, by letter dated June 24, 2024, the Board notified Mr. Carper of the complaint filed against him, provided Mr. Carper with a summary of the nature of the complaint, and requested that Mr. Carper provide a response to the complaint;

WHEREAS, by letter received by the Board on July 8, 2024, Mr. Carper responded to the complaint, admitting the allegations contained therein and further admitting that he did not complete the patient visits for which he falsified documents because he was suffering from depression and an active suicidal episode at the time the visits were to have occurred, attributable to recent losses of family members and a negative reaction to newly prescribed medication;

WHEREAS, pursuant to a complaint and an administrative investigation, Mr. Carper has indicated his desire to resolve this matter through a Consent Agreement and Order as provided for

Ryan Carper #2024-136

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in Rule No. 907 of the Board's Rules, Standards and Procedures and La. R.S. 49:975(D) of the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act;

WHEREAS, Mr. Carper has admitted to the following:

1. Mr. Carper is a Licensed Master Social Worker ("LMSW") licensed by the Board to engage in the practice of social work in the State of Louisiana pursuant to the Social Work Practice Act, La. R.S. 37:2701 *et. seq.*, as evidenced by License Number 14314.
2. Mr. Carper falsified documentation for three (3) patient visits which never occurred, and for which he received mileage and billing was paid.

WHEREAS, by falsifying his documentation of services, Mr. Carper violated 37:2717(A)(5)(7)(10) & (11), La. Admin Code tit. 46:XXV §107(B), La. Admin Code tit. 46:XXV §111(G)(2) & (5), La. Admin Code tit. 46:XXV §117(A), La. Admin Code tit. 46:XXV §121(B).

WHEREAS, undersigned counsel has confirmed Mr. Carper's desire to resolve this matter through a Consent Agreement and Order;

WHEREAS, Mr. Carper agrees not to repeat the misconduct mentioned in this Consent Agreement and Order, and acknowledges that any further misconduct mentioned in this Consent Agreement and Order will be considered a violation of the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order and shall be cause for further disciplinary action;

WHEREAS, Mr. Carper recognizes his right to have an administrative adjudication of the charges outlined in the complaint and notice letter, at which time Mr. Carper would be entitled to be represented by legal counsel, to call witnesses, and to present witnesses on his behalf in defense or in mitigation of the charges made, and to a decision thereon by the Board based upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law in accordance with the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act. Mr. Carper nonetheless waives his right to formal adjudication and, pursuant to La. R.S.

Ryan Carper #2024-136

Initial: RC
5088547.v1

49:975(D), consents to the entry of the Consent Agreement and Order set forth hereinafter. Mr. Carper also acknowledges that he waives any rights to which he may be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, La. R.S. 49:951, *et seq.*, or which he otherwise may be afforded by any law, to contest his agreement to, or the force and effect of this Consent Agreement and Order, in any Court or other forum.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that in consideration of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by La. R.S. 49:975(D), the Board orders and Mr. Carper accepts the following administrative action which is a final decision pursuant to La. R.S. 49:977:

1. Within five (5) days from the date all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order, Mr. Carper shall contact the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners' Impaired Professional Program ("IPP") to schedule an evaluation by the IPP approved evaluator. Mr. Carper shall be evaluated by the IPP approved evaluator at his expense within thirty (30) days from the date that all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order. Mr. Carper shall follow all recommendations of the designated IPP evaluator in a timely manner. Mr. Carper agrees to release the disciplinary file related to Complaint No. 2024-136 to the IPP for evaluation purposes.
2. Mr. Carper acknowledges and agrees that current treatment records of healthcare providers who have treated him for any medical, behavioral health, or other conditions of impairment are significant to the IPP evaluation. Accordingly, Mr. Carper agrees to provide the IPP Manager with copies of all current treatment records for any medical, behavioral health, or other conditions of impairment prior to the IPP evaluation.

Ryan Carper #2024-136

Initial: RC
5088547.v1

3. The LMSW license of Ryan Carper to be engaged in the practice of social work in the state of Louisiana, as evidenced by LMSW license number 14314 shall be, and is hereby SUSPENDED pending the IPP evaluator's determination that Mr. Carper is able to safely practice social work.
4. The LMSW license of Ryan Carper to be engaged in the practice of social work in the State of Louisiana, as evidenced by license number 14314, shall be placed on PROBATION for a period of one (1) year, starting at the time that the suspension of his license is lifted. Accordingly, Mr. Carper accepts and shall maintain strict compliance with the following terms and conditions.
5. Mr. Carper's practice of social work must be supervised by a Board-Approved Clinical Supervisor ("BACS") one (1) time per month for one (1) hour for twelve (12) months, during which time his license will stay on PROBATION. The BACS must make quarterly reports on Mr. Carper's progress to the Board. Mr. Carper agrees to release the disciplinary file associated with Complaint No. 2024-136 to the BACS.
6. Mr. Carper shall pay a fine in the amount of SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$750.00) within two (2) years from the date all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order. The payments shall be made on a quarterly basis with the first payment due within ninety (90) days from the date all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order. Payment shall be made by credit card, certified check, or money order.
7. Mr. Carper shall reimburse legal costs associated with Complaint No. 2024-136 in the amount of ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED TEN AND 00/100 DOLLARS

Ryan Carper #2024-136

Initial: RC
5088547.v1

(\$1,110.00) within two (2) years from the date all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order. The payments shall be made on a quarterly basis with the first payment due within ninety (90) days from the date all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order. Payment shall be made by credit card, certified check, or money order.

8. Mr. Carper shall complete a total of six (6) hours of continuing education in the area of self-care/mental health of the therapist. These hours are to be pre-approved by the Board prior to completion. These continuing education hours must be completed in addition to all standard renewal requirements for his LMSW licensure. Mr. Carper shall provide the Board with evidence of attendance within twelve (12) months after all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order.
9. Mr. Carper specifically acknowledges that failure to comply with the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order may result in a denial, revocation, or suspension of any license, certificate, or registration issued by, or applied for, in accordance with La. R.S. 37:2717.
10. Mr. Carper further acknowledges that failure to reimburse the fees set forth above at Paragraphs 6 and 7 will require the Board to take further action in collection of this debt. Respondent has twenty-four (24) months to reimburse the expenses before the debt will be considered final and transferred to the Louisiana Office of Debt Recovery (ODR). After transfer, the debt is subject to an additional collection fee of up to twenty-five percent (25%) of the total debt liability, as provided for in La. R.S. 47:1676 (E).

Ryan Carper #2024-136

Initial: RC
5088547.v1

11. Mr. Carper shall report the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order to any board or agency with which he is licensed, certified, or registered.

12. By agreeing to the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order, Mr. Carper waives all rights to appeal this adjudication.

Effect of Non-Acceptance of Agreement. Mr. Carper acknowledges that this Consent Agreement and Order is subject to the approval of the Board. He further acknowledges and agrees that if the Board rejects this Consent Agreement and Order, it will be void, and an Administrative Complaint may be filed relative to the allegations contained herein. If this Consent Agreement and Order is rejected by the Board, it will not constitute a waiver of Mr. Carper's right to a hearing on the matters alleged in an Administrative Complaint and the admissions contained herein will have no effect. He further agrees that if the Board rejects this Consent Agreement and Order, the members of the Board may decide the matter after a hearing, and their consideration of this Consent Agreement and Order shall not alone be grounds for recusal of any member of the Board, including any claims that the Board is biased against him, that it cannot fairly decide the case, or that it has received *ex parte* communication.

Address of Board. All payments ordered and any reports required by this Consent Agreement and Order shall be addressed to: Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners, 18550 Highland Road, Suite B, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809.

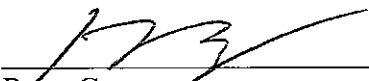
IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that this Consent Agreement and Order shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the Board and is a public record of the Board. The terms of this Consent Agreement and Order may be published and reported in, including but not limited to, the LABSWE Newsletter, the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB), and the National Practitioner Data Bank-Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank (NPDB-HIPDB).

Ryan Carper #2024-136

Initial: RC
5088547.v1

I, Ryan Carper, have read the Consent Agreement and Order, understand it, and agree to be bound by its terms and conditions. I specifically acknowledge that failure to comply with the terms of the Consent Agreement and Order may result in revocation or suspension of my license. The admissions contained herein will be considered proven and the only issue will be failure to follow the terms of the Consent Agreement and Order. I make these acknowledgements and waivers in support of a final disposition of the pending investigation of Complaint No. 2024-136 by Consent Agreement and Order pursuant to La. R.S. 49:975(D), in lieu of the institution and prosecution of formal administrative proceedings, and accordingly consent to the entirety of the Order set forth above and further waive any right to which I may be entitled under the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act or any other law to contest, in any court, my agreement to this Order. By my subscription hereto, I also hereby authorize the Prosecutor to present this Order to the LABSWE for its consideration and to disclose to and discuss with the LABSWE the nature and results of the investigation of this matter. I herein waive any objection to such disclosure based on due process of law under either the State or Federal Constitution or under State statutory law, including La. R.S. 49:977.2. I expressly acknowledge that the disclosure of such information to the LABSWE shall be without prejudice to the Prosecutor's authority to file a formal Administrative Complaint, or the LABSWE's capacity to adjudicate such Administrative Complaint, should the LABSWE decline to approve this Consent Agreement and Order. I further acknowledge my awareness that should the LABSWE approve this Consent Agreement and Order that the Consent Agreement and Order will become a matter of public record.

DATED: 8/27/24



Ryan Carper

Ryan Carper #2024-136

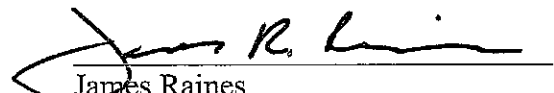
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Sworn to and subscribed before me on this 27th day of August 2024.

*Bessie V. Prowse
Notary Public # 52346*

The prosecutor acknowledges negotiation and preparation of this Consent Agreement and Order in order to resolve, with prejudice, all matters for which the social worker could be charged under Complaint 2024-136, and further certifies that this Consent Agreement and Order is consistent with the evidence, adequately addresses the complaint, and represents a true and correct statement of that which could be proven at a hearing of this matter.

DATED: 9/9/24


James Raines
Prosecutor

Ryan Carper #2024-136

Initial: RC
5088547.v1

ORDER


The Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners, having examined the Consent Agreement and Order, Case No. 2024-136, adopted the Consent Agreement and Order in this matter.

DATED this 13th day of September, 2024, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

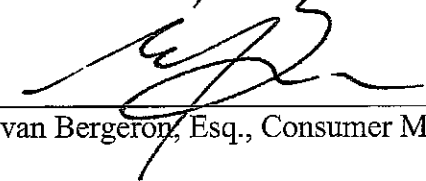
LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL
WORK EXAMINERS



Dr. Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS

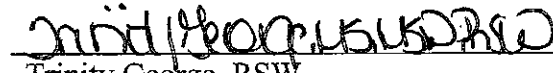


Dr. Jamie Barney, LCSW-BACS



Evan Bergeron, Esq., Consumer Member

Melissa Smith Haley, LMSW



Trinity George, RSW



Bora Sunseri, LCSW-BACS

Ryan Carper #2024-136

Initial: RC
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