

IN THE MATTER OF:

WILL FRANCIS, APPLICANT

CONSENT AGREEMENT

The above captioned matter came before the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners ("Board") pursuant to La. R.S. 37:2705(C) and R.S. 37:2717 following receipt of an application from Will Francis for licensure as a Licensed Master's Social Worker ("LMSW") following his receipt of a Cease and Desist Order.

STIPULATIONS OF FACT

Will Francis ("Applicant") admits the following facts and agrees the admitted facts in this Consent Agreement are considered proven and uncontestable in any subsequent proceeding before the Board.

1. Applicant obtained a master's in social work from the University of Texas, Austin in 2010.
2. Since 2023, Applicant has served as the Executive Director of National Association of Social Workers – Louisiana Chapter ("NASW-LA") in which Applicant has engaged in "social work practice" in Louisiana as defined by La. R.S. 37:2703(14)(a) including but not limited to applying "social work values, theories, and interventions to ... promoting the effective and humane operations of systems that provide resources and services to people" and by engaging in "policy and administration, research, and social work education" without a social work credential issued by the Board.
3. Since 2023, Applicant has engaged in activities within the scope of practice for an LMSW set forth in La. R.S. 37:2707(B) by applying "specialized knowledge and advanced practice skills" including "advocacy, teaching, ... community organization, and the development ... of policies" without an LMSW credential issued by the Board.
4. On June 27, 2024, pursuant to La. R.S. 37:2717(G), a Cease and Desist Order was issued to Applicant ordering him to Cease and Desist the practice of social work in Louisiana and to cease the publication of the designation "LMSW" in connection with his name on all print and electronic media implying he is an LMSW in Louisiana including but not limited to on the website of the NASW-LA and any other activities in violation of La. R.S. 37:2715(B).
5. Other than in connection with Applicant's employment by NASW-LA, Applicant has not engaged in or received compensation for practicing social work in Louisiana.
6. Applicant has no present intention to engage in the practice of social work in Louisiana other than as an employee of NASW; however, he seeks to maintain the position of Executive Director for NASW-LA.

Applicant waives the following rights:

1. The right to an administrative hearing on the violations in the Cease and Desist Order and any subsequent violation occurring prior to the date of this Order at which he 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 violations, and to a decision by the Board based upon written findings of fact and conclusion of law in accordance with the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act.
2. Any right to contest the terms of this Consent Agreement, in any subsequent proceeding before the Board or in a court of competent jurisdiction.
3. Any right to recuse any Board member on the grounds of consideration of this Consent Agreement.

Applicant agrees to:

1. Apply for licensure by endorsement and comply with all requirements thereof within fourteen calendar days of approval of this Consent Agreement.
2. Notify the Board of any employment including as a volunteer in which he will engage in social work practice in Louisiana within 48 hours via email prior to engaging in social work practice.
3. Prior to practicing social work in Louisiana in any capacity other than as the Executive Director of NASW-LA, comply with all requirements for supervision pursuant to LAC 46: XXV.505.
4. The Board has jurisdiction over this matter and that any failure to comply with the terms of this Consent Agreement constitutes grounds for the Board to revoke or deny any application for or renewal of any license, certificate, or registration issued by the Board.

ORDER

Considering the foregoing admissions, waivers and agreements by Applicant, the Board determines that the best interest of the public is served by this Consent Agreement and Order;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners shall issue a Licensed Master's Social Work credential upon Applicant's completion of the following:

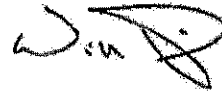
1. All requirements for licensure by endorsement in Louisiana including but not limited to: (1) provide evidence of being in good standing with any social work regulatory board or agency based on substantially equivalent educational, supervision, and examination requirements for an LMSW; (2) pass the open-book examination on the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act; and (3) pay the application fee of \$75 set forth in La. R.S. 37:2716(A)(2)(a) and the \$100 renewal fee set forth in La. R.S. 37:2716(A)(2)(c).

2. Providing evidence of completion of at least 20 hours of continuing education in programs pre-approved by the Board for the 2023 collection period and an additional 20 hours of continuing education for the 2024 collection period by January 31, 2025.
3. Payment of a fine of \$500 for each of the four violations of La. R.S. 37:2715(B) and La. R.S. 37:2717(A)(5) documented in the Cease and Desist Order totaling \$2,000.
4. Payment of \$2,500 for costs incurred by the Board resulting from the investigation and resolution of the violations in accordance with La. R.S. 37:2717(D).

THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER shall be a public record. The terms of this Consent Agreement and Order may be published and reported in the LABSWE Newsletter, on the Board's website, to the Association of Social Work Boards' Public Protection Database ("ASWB PPD"), and to the National Practitioner Data Bank and the Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank ("NPDB-HIPDB"), if required.

Will Francis hereby certifies he has freely and voluntarily entered into this Consent Agreement with full knowledge and understanding of its terms and agrees to complete the requirements set forth in the Order.

Signed this 23 day of October, 2024.



Will Francis

The Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners approved the foregoing Consent Agreement and Order at its meeting held on October 25, 2024.

Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners

By: Jamie Rainey, DSW, LCSW BACS