

Marty M. Snyder, KS S Ct #11317  
Kansas Attorney General's Office  
120 SW 10th Avenue, Second Floor  
Topeka, KS 66612-1597

**BEFORE THE KANSAS BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES REGULATORY BOARD**

In the Matter of )  
 )  
ASHLEY HUGGANS, LBSW, )  
License #8117, )  
Respondent )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

Case No. 15-BS-111

**CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER**

NOW, on this 9 day of February, 2016, the above-captioned matter comes before the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board [Board], by and through Assistant Attorney General Marty M. Snyder, by agreement of Ashley Huggans, LBSW [Respondent / Licensee], and the Board for the purpose of resolving the above-captioned case.

Licensee hereby acknowledges the following:

1. Ashley Huggans is a Licensed Bachelor Social Worker within the meaning of the Kansas Social Workers Licensure Act, K.S.A. 65-6301, *et seq.*, and amendments thereto.
2. On March 12, 2015, the Board received a report of information concerning Licensee's conduct alleging Licensee may have violated certain statutes and regulations governing unprofessional conduct.
3. The Board conducted an investigation concerning Licensee's alleged violations of statutes and regulations. During the investigation, Licensee was informed of the reported information and responded to the complaint in writing on May 26, 2015.

4. As a result of the investigation, the Board has found that the following facts have been established by a preponderance of the evidence:
  - a. Respondent was a social work specialist / investigator with the Wyandotte County Department of Children and Families (DCF) office. For many months she failed to complete documentation on her contacts with clients and provided false information about its status to her supervisors.
  - b. When asked to submit missing or incomplete documentation, Respondent told her supervisor she had placed it on a personal removable computer drive and had lost the drive. This violated DCF policy on confidentiality of records.
  - c. The supervisor determined Respondent had approximately 55 incomplete files and allowed her to resign in lieu of termination.
  - d. Respondent was given an additional four weeks to complete her cases, however, she left before the final date without completing the cases, documentation and records. This caused not only a hardship for the DCF staff but also compromised the safety of the children on her client caseload.
5. The Complaint Review Committee concluded there is probable cause to find that Respondent failed to take appropriate action to protect her clients and engaged in incompetent practice of social work.
6. The above facts state violations of the following statute and administrative regulations:  
**K.S.A. 65-6311. Grounds for suspension, limitation, revocation or refusal to issue or renew license; procedure.**

(a) The board may suspend, limit, revoke, condition or refuse to issue or renew a license of any social worker upon proof that the social worker:

...  
(4) has been found guilty of unprofessional conduct as defined by rules established by the board; ...

**K.A.R. 102-2-7. Unprofessional Conduct.** Any of the following acts by a licensee . . . shall constitute unprofessional conduct:

(b) (3) – failure to report termination for misfeasance, nonfeasance or malfeasance;

(v) - failure to exercise due diligence in protecting information regarding client information in one's workplace;

(ii) – failure to document and maintain required client information and records properly;

(xx) - practicing social work in an incompetent manner.

However, Licensee and the Board mutually desire to enter a Consent Agreement and Order in lieu of adjudicative proceedings to resolve the report of alleged violations.

WHEREFORE, Licensee waives all rights to an adjudication of facts and law which could be determined pursuant to a hearing conducted in accordance with the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act in relation to Case No. 15-BS-111.

WHEREFORE, Licensee waives the right to file a motion for reconsideration and all rights of appeal pursuant to the Kansas Judicial Review Act in relation to Case No.15-BS-111.

WHEREFORE, Licensee consents to the following terms and conditions:

- (a) Licensee shall obtain three additional CEU hours in Ethics to be completed in person within six months of the effective date of this CAO. Focus should be on the importance of documenting client information and protecting confidentiality of client information. Proof of completion shall be furnished to the Board's Investigator within thirty days of completion.

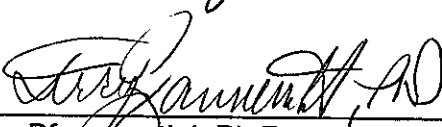
- (b) When Licensee is employed in a position requiring her social worker license, she shall be supervised by an employment supervisor licensed at the independent clinical level for a period of one year. They shall meet face-to-face for one hour per week during the term of supervision. The focus of the supervision shall be on the type of clients and work Licensee is handling at that time. Licensee shall provide a copy of this Consent Agreement to her supervisor, and the supervisor shall provide quarterly written update reports to the Board's Investigator.
- (c) Licensee shall be responsible for any costs and expenses incurred in satisfying the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order.
- (d) Evidence of Licensee's breach, violation or failure to comply with any of the above conditions could result in a determination that Licensee's Kansas Licensed Bachelor Social Worker license should be suspended until such time as Licensee can demonstrate compliance with all terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement and Order to the satisfaction of the Board.
- (e) Licensee understands that a notification of this Consent Agreement and Order shall be provided to any other state licensing board if Licensee is also licensed, registered or certified in another state and as otherwise required by law.
- (f) Licensee acknowledges an affirmative duty to notify the Board within five (5) days of any changes in personal or professional status which would inhibit compliance with any condition of this Consent Agreement and Order.
- (g) This Consent Agreement and Order constitutes the entire agreement between the Licensee and the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board and may be modified or amended only by written agreement signed by Licensee and a designee of the Board.

WHEREFORE, Licensee consents to the submission of this Consent Agreement and Order to the Board's Complaint Review Committee and understands that, upon approval by the Complaint Review Committee, this Consent Agreement and Order will become a Final Order of the Board. The Board has authorized the Complaint Review Committee to determine approval of this Consent Agreement and Order.

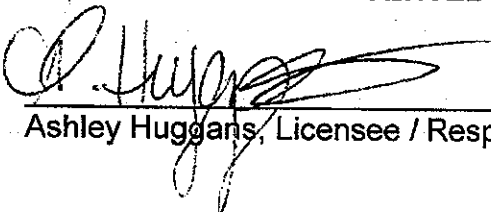
WHEREFORE, the Board agrees that, so long as Licensee complies with the above conditions, the Board will not initiate further disciplinary action against Licensee in relation to violations of K.S.A. 65-6311 and K.A.R. 102-2-7 as a result of this proceeding.

WHEREFORE, the foregoing provisions are consented to, are hereby made the final Order of the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board and become effective on the date indicated in the Certificate of Service below.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 9<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2016.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Terry Pfannenstiel, Ph.D.  
Chair, Complaint Review Committee

**APPROVED AND CONSENTED TO:**

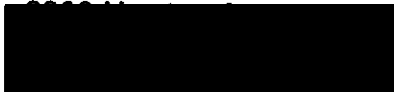
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ashley Huggans, Licensee / Respondent

2/3/16  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

This is to certify that on this 9 day of February, 2016, a true and correct copy of the above Consent Agreement and Order was deposited in the U.S. mail, first class postage prepaid, addressed to:

Ashley Huggans



and a copy delivered via interoffice mail to:

Marty M. Snyder, Esq.  
Assistant Attorney General  
*Disciplinary Counsel for the Board*

Cindy D'Ercole  
For the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board