



STATE OF KANSAS  
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August 17, 2018

Kelsey Stepp



Re: *In the Matter of Stepp*, BSRB Case No. 17-MA-0094

Dear Ms. Stepp:

The Complaint Review Committee (“Committee”) of the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board met on August 13, 2018, and reviewed your submission to the Board regarding the withdrawal of your request for hearing related to the Summary Proceeding Order issued November 13, 2017, which you timely requested a hearing for this Summary Proceeding Order.

You filed your request for a hearing on November 27, 2017, and the suspension ordered by the Board did not take effect. Thus the “clock” for your one-year suspension did not start. On July 20, 2018, you sent a letter to the Committee informing them you had withdrawn your request for the formal hearing. When you withdrew your request for hearing, the “clock” for your one-year suspension started. The Committee reviewed your request that the suspension on your license commence on November 27, 2017. However, the Committee finds the underlying conduct warrants the one-year suspension, and also find that the one-year suspension began on July 20, 2018, when you submitted notice to the Committee that you withdrew your request for a hearing.

Very truly yours,

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL  
DEREK SCHMIDT

Jane E. Weiler,  
Assistant Attorney General

Cc: Max Foster, Executive Director

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BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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 )  
 )  
KELSEY STEPP, LMAC )  
License #11, )  
Respondent )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

Case No. 17-MA-094

**SUMMARY PROCEEDING ORDER OF SUSPENSION**

NOW, on this ~~13~~ 13 day of ~~October~~ November, 2017, the above-captioned matter comes before the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board [BSRB, Board] Complaint Review Committee [Committee], by and through Assistant Attorney General Marty M. Snyder.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Board finds that the following facts have been established by a preponderance of persuasive evidence:

1. Kelsey Stepp [Licensee / Respondent] was at all times relevant a Licensed Masters Addiction Counselor [LMAC] within the meaning of the Kansas Addictions Counselor Licensure Act, K.S.A. 65-6601, *et seq.*, and amendments thereto.
2. In March of 2017, the Board received self-reports from Licensee as well as a report of alleged violation from her employment supervisor at Matrix Center.
3. In the self-reports, Licensee admitted to having a sexual relationship with a current client. That client's girlfriend also disclosed the relationship to Matrix staff.

4. Licensee resigned her substance abuse counselor position at Matrix Center and admitted she made a grave mistake. She acknowledged that she needs to complete her own therapy prior to resuming addiction counseling practice in the future.

5. The report from her supervisor disclosed an additional previous sexual relationship with a client of the facility seen professionally on five occasions by Licensee that she had not self-reported.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

6. The Complaint Review Committee of the Board finds that probable cause exists to believe Licensee violated the following statutes and regulations:

**A. K.S.A. 65-6615 (g), unprofessional conduct.**

**B. K.A.R. 102-7-11-- Unprofessional Conduct.**

Each of the following acts shall be considered unprofessional conduct for a ... licensed addiction counselor:

(a)(5) has practiced the licensee's profession in violation of the laws or regulations that regulate the profession;

(g) failing to recognize, seek intervention, and otherwise appropriately respond when one's own personal problems, psychosocial distress, or mental health difficulties interfere with or negatively impact professional judgment, professional performance and functioning, or the ability to act in the client's best interests;

(r) failing to obtain written, informed consent from each client, or the client's legal representative or representatives, before performing any of the following actions: ... (3) releasing information concerning a client to a third person, unless required or permitted by law;

(v) engaging in a harmful dual relationship or exercising undue influence;

(w) making sexual advances toward or engaging in physical intimacies or sexual activities with either of the following: (1) Any person who is a client, supervisee, or student.

5. Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-537, the Board may hold summary proceedings pursuant to the terms of the statute. The Board finds that this matter is appropriate for summary disposition.

WHEREFORE, pursuant to the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act, K.S.A. 77-537 and K.S.A. 65-6615, the Board finds that Licensee Kelsey Stepp's Kansas Licensed Masters Addictions Counselor license should be and is hereby suspended for one year, effective pursuant to the Notice of Relief and Certificate of Service below. Upon Licensee's filing an application for reinstatement after one year, the Board shall consider reinstating Licensee's LMAC license upon satisfactory evidence of insight into her above violations and responsibility for the health and safety of her clients.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 26<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2017.

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

### **NOTICE OF RELIEF FROM THIS ORDER**

Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-537 and K.S.A. 77-542, this Summary Proceeding Order of Suspension is subject to your request for a hearing. If you desire a hearing, you must direct a written request for hearing to:

Max Foster, Executive Director  
Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board  
Eisenhower State Office Building, #430  
Topeka, KS 66603

Any such request must be filed within fifteen (15) days of service of this Notice. If a hearing is not requested in the time and manner stated, this Summary Proceeding Order becomes final and effective upon the expiration of the time for requesting a hearing and will be a Final Order of the Board. A Final Order may be appealed to the District Court pursuant to the Kansas Judicial Review Act, K.S.A. 77-601, *et seq.*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

This is to certify that on this 13 day of November, 2017, a true and correct copy of the above Summary Proceeding Order of Suspension was deposited in the U.S. mail, first class postage prepaid, addressed to:

Kelsey R. Stepp



Kelsey Stepp



and emailed to:



and a copy delivered via interoffice mail to:

Marty M. Snyder, Esq.  
Assistant Attorney General

*Cindy D'Ercole*

\_\_\_\_\_  
For the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board