

**BEFORE THE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES REGULATORY BOARD**  
Eisenhower State Office Building  
400 SW Harrison, Suite 420  
Topeka, Kansas 66603-3240

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Thomas S. Ray	)	Case No.
Applicant for Licensure as a	)	
<u>Clinical Social Worker</u>	)	

Summary Proceeding Order

The above-captioned matter comes before the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (Board) for consideration of the reciprocity application filed by Thomas S. Ray for licensure as a clinical social worker. After reviewing its administrative records, the Board makes the following findings of fact, conclusions of law, and orders.

Findings of Fact

1. On December 13, 2019, the Board received a reciprocity application filed by Thomas S. Ray (Applicant) for licensure as a clinical social worker (LCSW). At that time, Applicant was licensed in Arkansas as a clinical social worker from March 14, 2000, to March 31, 2020. He also was licensed in Missouri as a clinical social worker from December 12, 2019, to September 30, 2021.
2. In March 2020, Applicant's application was approved. He was advised a license would be issued after he completed and returned the license request form and paid the license fee. Applicant did not comply with this requirement or withdraw his application. Thus, his application remained pending.
3. After March 2020, the Board received a complaint regarding Applicant. From approximately November 2019 to March 2020 Applicant was employed at Chautauqua Counseling Center (CCC) in Mission, Kansas. Thomas Holtgrewe who is licensed by the Board as clinical professional counselor is the President and Executive Director of CCC. Holtgrewe hired Applicant; both of them knew Applicant was not licensed as a social worker in Kansas.
4. While working at CCC, Applicant carried a caseload and facilitated group and individual substance abuse counseling. He also identified himself as an LCSW even though he holds no license issued by the Board. Applicant admitted he engaged in the practice as a clinical social worker in Kansas from November 2019 to March 2020 without a license.

Conclusions of Law

5. The Board is authorized to issue a license as a clinical social worker to applicants who are currently licensed to practice social work at the clinical level in another

jurisdiction if they meet certain criteria. See K.S.A. Supp. 65-6309(b). However, the Board may refuse to issue or may condition or limit a license if an applicant "has violated a provision of the social workers licensure act or one or more rules and regulations of the Board." K.S.A. 65-6311(a)(5).

6. Because he has applied for licensure as a clinical social worker, the Board has jurisdiction over Applicant and this matter.

7. Administrative proceedings under the Social Workers Licensure Act are conducted in accordance with the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act (KAPA), K.S.A. 77-501 *et seq.* K.S.A. 65-6311(c). Under the KAPA, the Board may use summary proceedings to issue an order, subject to a party's request for a hearing. The Board finds that the use of summary proceedings in this matter does not violate any law and the protection of the public interest does not require the Board to give notice and opportunity to participate to persons other than the parties. K.S.A. 77-537.

8. K.S.A. 65-6303(a) provides that "no person shall engage in the practice of social work for compensation or hold forth as performing the services of a social worker unless such person is licensed in accordance with the provisions of this act." Applicant has admitted that he engaged in the practice of clinical social work while employed at CCC from November 2019 to March 2020, or approximately five months. He has also held himself out to others as a clinical social worker. Thus, the Board determines that Applicant violated K.S.A. 65-6311(a)(5).

9. Having been licensed and practiced in two other jurisdictions, Applicant was aware of the importance of obtaining a license from the Board prior to beginning his practice as a clinical social worker. Applicant's failure to accept his responsibility for his conduct is disturbing and reveals a cavalier attitude towards licensing.

10. After considering the totality of the evidence, the Board concludes that the Applicant should be denied a license to practice as a clinical social worker.

#### Order

After consideration of the above findings of facts and conclusions of law, it is the decision and the order of the Board that the application filed by Thomas S. Ray for a license to practice as a clinical social worker in Kansas be denied.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deb Stidham, Chair  
Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board

**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE RELIEF**

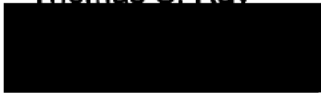
Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-537(b) and 77-542(a), a written request for a hearing before the Board on the above Summary Proceeding Order may be filed with the Board within fifteen (15) days of the date listed on the certificate of service below. If a hearing is not requested in the time and manner stated, the above Summary Proceeding Order becomes effective upon expiration of the fifteen (15) day time. The Board's designee who may receive service of a request for a hearing on behalf of the Board is:

David Fye, Executive Director  
Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board  
700 SW Harrison, Suite 420  
Topeka, Kansas 66603

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

This is to certify that on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of ~~March~~ <sup>April</sup> 2021 a copy of the above and foregoing Summary Proceeding Order and Notice was placed in the U.S. mail, first-class postage prepaid, addressed to:

Thomas S. Ray



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keshia A. Allen".

\_\_\_\_\_  
Staff,  
Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board