

**BEFORE THE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES REGULATORY BOARD**

Eisenhower State Office Building  
700 SW Harrison, Suite 420  
Topeka, Kansas 66603-3240

In the Matter of )  
 )  
Jessica V. Teague ) Case No. 23-AC-0044  
 )  
Applicant for Licensure as an )  
Addiction Counselor )

**SUMMARY PROCEEDING ORDER**

The above-captioned matter comes before the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (Board) for consideration of the application filed by Jessica V. Teague for licensure as an addiction counselor (LAC). The Presiding Officers who considered her application were the following Board members: Mary Jones, Donna Hoener-Queal, Jim Kilmartin, Andrea Perdomo-Morales, Cynthia Schendel, Laura Shaughnessy, Ric Steele, and Deb Stidham. Board members David Anderson, Jacquie Lightcap, Richard Nobles, and Johnna Norton were not present.

After reviewing its administrative records, the Board makes the following findings of fact, conclusions of law, and orders.

Findings of Fact

1. The Board received an application from Jessica V. Teague (Applicant) for licensure as an addiction counselor on August 16, 2022.
2. On or about September 19, 2022, the Board received a report of alleged violation, concerning Applicant's conduct. The report alleged Licensee may have violated certain statutes and regulations governing unprofessional conduct.
3. The Board conducted an investigation concerning Applicant's alleged violations of the statutes and regulations. During the investigation, Applicant was informed of the initial complaint and was given the opportunity to respond to the allegations. Applicant's response was received on October 24, 2022.
4. In September 2022, Applicant was employed providing services as a peer mentor and case manager to clients. On September 12, 2022, a client's significant other informed Applicant's employer of inappropriate contact by Applicant to a client, including an inappropriate relationship between Applicant and client and inappropriate messages between Applicant and the client. The employer contacted Applicant to respond to those

statements. Applicant provided a response to her employer, but did not admit to the existence of an inappropriate relationship. The employer found that certain statements by Applicant were not truthful and found that there was inappropriate contact between Applicant and the client.

5. Following Applicant's contact with her employer, she sent a message to the client that she was alleged to have an inappropriate sexual relationship with, stating:

*"FOR REAL...(Applicant's Employer) IS GOING TO HAVE YOU COME IN LATER. She (client's significant other) fucking went there and left angry messages about me. I need you to call me."*

6. In Applicant's October 24, 2022, response to the Board, Applicant denies that an inappropriate romantic or sexual relationship existed between herself and the client and denies inappropriate contact between herself and the client. Applicant states that statements made by her client in text communications including *"ok well that shit is over so let it be"* and *"it's actually my counselor but I cut it off"* lack context and any interpretation on their meeting would be speculation. Applicant states that when she was informed of the allegations, she contacted her client and asked him to step in to clear up the allegations, but notes that she was wrong in the way she handled her reaction.

#### Conclusions of Law

7. The Board conducts administrative proceedings under the Act in accordance with the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act (KAPA), K.S.A. 77-501 et seq. K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 65-6615(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. 2021 Supp. 77-537.

8. The Addiction Counselor Licensure Act (Act), K.S.A. 65-6607 et seq., authorizes the Board to issue a license as an addiction counselor to applicants who furnish evidence satisfactory to the Board that said "applicant is a person who merits the public trust."

9. Under K.A.R. 102-7-1, "merit the public trust" means that an applicant or licensee possesses the high standard of good moral character and fitness that is required to practice addiction counseling as demonstrated by the following personal qualities:

- (1) Good judgment;
- (2) integrity;
- (3) honesty;
- (4) fairness;
- (5) credibility;

- (6) reliability;
- (7) respect for others;
- (8) respect for the laws of the state and nation;
- (9) self-discipline;
- (10) self-evaluation;
- (11) initiative; and
- (12) commitment to the addiction counseling profession and its values and ethics.

10. Further, under K.S.A. 65-6615, the board may refuse to issue, renew or reinstate a license, may condition, limit, revoke or suspend a license, may publicly or privately censure a licensee or may impose a fine not to exceed \$1,000 per violation upon a finding that a licensee or an applicant for license:

(9) has been found to have engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by applicable rules and regulations adopted by the board.

11. Under K.A.R. 102-7-11, each of the following acts shall be considered unprofessional conduct for a licensed addiction counselor, a licensed clinical addiction counselor, or an applicant for an addiction counselor license or a clinical addiction counselor license:

(i) offering to perform or performing services clearly inconsistent or incommensurate with one's training, education, or experience or with accepted professional standards;

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

12. Applicant's conduct while employed, during which time she was an applicant for licensure by the Board, shows that she has not provided sufficient information to demonstrate that she merits the public trust, as defined in K.A.R. 102-7-1 and she has engaged in unprofessional conduct, as defined in K.A.R. 102-7-11.

13. Based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, the Board determines that Applicant did not meet the requirements for licensure as a licensed addiction counselor and that her application for licensure as a licensed addiction counselor should be denied.

Order

After consideration of the above findings of facts and conclusions of law, it is the unanimous decision of the Presiding Officers who considered this matter and the order of the Board that the application filed by Jessica V. Teague for licensure as a licensed addiction counselor be denied.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Jones', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mary Jones, Chair and Presiding Officer

## NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE RELIEF

Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-537(b) and 77-542(a), a party may file a written request for a hearing before the Board on the above Summary Proceeding Order with the Board within fifteen (15) days of the date listed on the Certificate of Service below. Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-503(c), the 15-day period begins the day after the date shown in Certificate of Service below. If the 15<sup>th</sup> day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then the 15-day period runs until 5:00 p.m. on the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday. Receipt of a written request occurs on the date the Board's office receives it. If the Board does not receive a request for a hearing in the time and the manner stated, the above Summary Proceeding Order becomes effective upon expiration of the 15-day period.

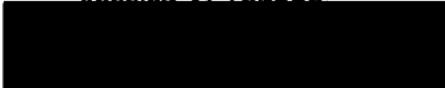
The Board's designee who may receive service of a request for a hearing on behalf of the Board is:

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 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June 2023 I placed a copy of the above and foregoing Summary Proceeding Order and Notice of Administrative Relief in the U.S. mail, first-class postage prepaid and addressed to:

Jessica V. Teague



Staff,  
Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board