

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS**

**IN THE MATTER OF
KENYA LAVERGNE
LICENSE NO. 9851**

**LABSWE COMPLAINT
NUMBER 2010-115**

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

WHEREAS, Kenya Lavergne is a credentialed social worker subject to the jurisdiction and rules and regulations of the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners (the Board); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to a complaint and an administrative investigation, the social worker, Kenya Lavergne, has indicated her desire to resolve this matter through a Consent Agreement and Order as provided for in Rule No. 907 of the Board's Rules, Standards and Procedures and La. R.S. 49:955(D) of the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act; and

WHEREAS, the social worker, Kenya Lavergne, has admitted the following:

1. Respondent, Kenya Lavergne, (Ms. Lavergne) is and at all times pertinent to the facts and matters alleged herein, a Graduate Social Worker (GSW), credentialed by the Board to engage in the practice of social work in the State of Louisiana pursuant to the Social Work Practice Act, La. R.S. 37:2701 et seq., as evidenced by Credential No. 9851.

2. At all times pertinent hereto, Ms. Lavergne was actively engaged in the practice of social work.

3. Ms. Lavergne held a Provisional GSW credential which lapsed on February 10, 2010.

4. Ms. Lavergne continued her usual and customary social work responsibilities at her place of employment from the time period of February 10, 2010 until March ¹²~~13~~, 2010.

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5. On March 16, 2010, Ms. Lavergne took and passed the examination for becoming a GSW.

6. Ms. Lavergne did not tell her employer or others that she was practicing with a lapsed credential.

WHEREAS, by allowing her credential to lapse by non-renewal and by continuing to practice social work using a lapsed credential from February 10, 2010 until March ¹²~~13~~, 2010, Ms. Lavergne has practiced without a current and valid certificate issued by the Board, as required by La. R.S. 37:2709, such action which is a misdemeanor as described by La. R.S. 37:2720, and constitutes a violation of Rule 119 of the Rules, Standards and Procedures for Louisiana Social Workers regarding accurate representation of one's credentials to the public, such conduct which is cause for disciplinary action by the Board pursuant to La. R.S. 37:2717(A)(5) .

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WHEREAS, the credentialed social worker has indicated her desire to resolve this matter through a Consent Agreement and Order;

WHEREAS, the undersigned Assistant Attorney General has conducted an interview with the respondent who has indicated her desire to resolve this matter through a Consent Agreement and Order;

WHEREAS, the credentialed social worker agrees not to repeat the misconduct mentioned in this Consent Agreement and Order, and such repeated misconduct will be considered a violation of the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that in consideration of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by La. R.S. 49:955(D), the Board orders and Ms. Lavergne accepts the following administrative action which is a final decision pursuant to La. R.S. 49:958:

1. In a course preapproved by the Board in advance, Ms. Lavergne shall complete a total of three (3) hours of continuing education on the subjects of ethics. This course must be completed in-person, and may not be completed through distance learning. This continuing education is in addition to the annual twenty (20) hours of continuing education required to maintain her GSW. Ms. Lavergne shall provide the Board with evidence of attendance within one (1) year after all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order.
2. Ms. Lavergne shall pass the Board's Open Book Examination on the Social Work Practice Act and Rules, Standards & Procedures within ninety (90) days after the date that all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order. Ms. Lavergne shall be responsible for all costs associated with the Open Book Examination.

3. Ms. Lavergne shall pay the investigative and legal costs associated with Complaint 2010-115 in the amount of \$756.00 within one year that all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order. There shall be no pre-payment penalty.
4. Ms. Lavergne specifically acknowledges that failure to comply with the terms of the Consent Agreement and Order may result in a suspension or revocation of her license. The admissions contained herein will be considered proven and the only issue will be failure to follow the terms of the Consent Agreement and Order.
5. By agreeing to the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order, Ms. Lavergne waives all rights to appeal this adjudication.

THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER is a matter of public record for violation of the above referenced sections of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act and the Rules, Standards and Procedures. The terms of this Consent Agreement and Order may be published and reported, including but not limited to, the LABSWE Newsletter, the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB), and the National Practitioner Data Bank-Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank (NPDB-HIPDB).

THE ADMISSIONS AND FINDINGS CONTAINED HEREIN are intended solely for the purpose of resolving the case at hand or in connection with other matters before the Board involving Respondent.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners
has entered into this Consent Agreement and Order and executed same at Baton Rouge,
Louisiana on this the 10th day of September, 2010.

John E. McBride, LCSW
John McBride, LCSW, Chair

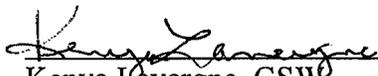
Michael Hickerson, RSW
Michael Hickerson, RSW, Vice-Chair

Hope Hinsel-Benson, LCSW
Hope Hinsel-Benson, LCSW, Secretary-Treasurer

Evelyn Jenkins, LCSW
Evelyn Jenkins, LCSW, Board Member

Wade H. Tyler, PhD, LCSW
Wade Tyler, PhD, LCSW, Board Member

I, Kenya Lavergne, GSW, make these acknowledgments and waivers in support of a final disposition of the pending investigation of Complaint No. 2010-115 by Consent Agreement and Order (Order) pursuant to La. R.S. 49:955 D, in lieu of the institution and prosecution of formal administrative proceedings, and accordingly consent to the entirety of the Order set forth hereinbefore and further waive any right to which I may be entitled under the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act or any other law to contest, in any court, my agreement to this Order. By my subscription hereto, I also hereby authorize Hope Himel-Benson, LCSW, designated by the Board with respect hereto, as well as the legal counsel assisting her, to present this Order to the Board for its consideration and to fully disclose to and discuss with the Board the nature and results of the investigation of this matter. I herein waive any objection to such disclosure based on due process of law under either the State or Federal Constitution or under State statutory law, including La. R.S. 49:960. I expressly acknowledge that the disclosure of such information to the Board by Hope Himel-Benson, LCSW, or her legal counsel shall be without prejudice to the Assistant Attorney General's authority to file a formal Administrative Complaint, or the Board's capacity to adjudicate such Administrative Complaint, should the Board decline to approve this Consent Agreement and Order. I further acknowledge my awareness that should the Board approve this Consent Agreement and Order that the Order will become a matter of public record.

 GSW 9/10/10
Kenya Lavergne, GSW Date

I, Emalie Boyce or Lindsey Hunter, Prosecutor, do hereby acknowledge negotiation and preparation of this Consent Agreement and Order in order to resolve, with prejudice, all matters for which the social worker, Kenya Lavergne, could be charged under Complaint No. 2010-115; and further certify that this Consent Agreement and Order is consistent with the evidence, adequately addresses the complaint and represents a true and correct statement of that which could be proven at a hearing of this matter.

 9/10/10
Emalie Boyce
Lindsey Hunter
Prosecutor Date