

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS**

IN THE MATTER OF

COMPLAINT NUMBER 2012-140

GWENDOLYN CHARLES

LICENSE NO. 3872

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

WHEREAS, Gwendolyn Charles, (“Ms. Charles”) 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, Ms. Charles 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, Ms. Charles, has admitted the following:

1. Ms. Charles is, and at all times pertinent to the facts and matters alleged herein, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (“LCSW”), licensed 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 License No. 3872.
2. On or about July 31, 2012, in the matter of the *State of Louisiana v. Carlton I. Charles, et al*, Case Number 512-535 before the Criminal District Court of Orleans Parish in the State of Louisiana, Ms. Charles entered a guilty plea for:

one count of racketeering, three counts of conspiracy to commit money laundering and one count of attempted possession with intent to distribute hydrocodone.

WHEREAS, by pleading guilty to a felony, the Board has cause to take disciplinary action pursuant to La. R.S. 37:2717(A)(1).

WHEREAS, by the actions described above, Ms. Charles has failed to maintain the requisite standards of the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners, under La. R.S. 37:2701, et seq., which is cause for the Board to take disciplinary action pursuant to La. R.S. 37:2712 (A) (12).

WHEREAS, Ms. Charles 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;

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. Charles accepts the following administrative action which is a final decision pursuant to La. R.S. 49:958:

1. Ms. Charles' license shall be on probation for five (5) years from the date all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order.

2. If she is not currently practicing, upon once again practicing social work, Ms. Charles shall complete one (1) hour of supervision of her social work practice every other week for a period of three (3) years by a LCSW-BACS pre-approved by the Board. Ms. Charles shall submit to the Board the name of the potential supervisor and his/her resume within fifteen (15) days of resuming the practice of social work. The potential supervisor shall submit a letter to the Board stating his/her acceptance of the provision of said supervision and stating he/she is not, nor previously has been, professionally or personally affiliated with Ms. Charles prior to this request for supervision. The supervisor shall submit quarterly supervision reports to the Board documenting dates met for supervision, topics addressed and progress made in supervision. Ms. Charles is responsible for all costs associated with supervision.
3. Ms. Charles shall pay the legal costs associated with Complaint 2012-140 in the amount of \$468.00 within one (1) year from the date all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order. The payments shall be made on a quarterly basis with the first payment due within ninety (90) days from the date all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order. There shall be no pre-payment penalty.

Waiver of Rights. Licensee is aware that he/she has the right to consult with an attorney of his/her choice and understands he/she has the right to an administrative hearing on the facts in this case. He/she understands and agrees that by signing this Agreement, he/she is waiving his/her rights to a hearing. Further, he/she understands and agrees that he/she is relieving the prosecutor of any burden it has of proving the facts

admitted above. Licensee further understands and agrees that by signing this Agreement he/she is voluntarily and knowingly giving up her right to present oral and documentary evidence, to present rebuttal evidence, to cross-examine witnesses against him/her, and to appeal the Board's decision.

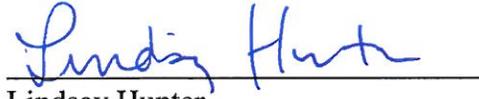
Effect of Non Acceptance of Agreement. Licensee and the prosecutor agree that this Consent Agreement and Order is subject to the approval of the Board. They agree that, if the Board rejects this agreement, it will be void, and an Administrative Complaint may be filed. If this agreement is rejected by the Board it will not constitute a waiver of licensee's right to a hearing on the matters alleged in an administrative complaint and the admissions contained herein will have no effect. Licensee agrees that, if the Board rejects this agreement, the Board may decide the matter after a hearing, and its consideration of this agreement shall not alone be grounds for claiming that the Board is biased against him/her, that it cannot fairly decide the case, or that it has received ex parte communication.

Address of Board. All payments ordered and any reports required by this Consent Agreement and Order shall be addressed to: Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners, 18550 Highland Road, Suite B, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that this Consent Agreement and Order shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the Board and is a public record of the Board. 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 prosecutor acknowledges negotiation and preparation of this Consent Agreement and Order in order to resolve, with prejudice, all matters for which the social worker could be charged under Complaint 2012-140, and further certifies 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.

DATED: 12/13/12



Lindsey Hunter
Assistant Attorney General
Prosecutor

I, Gwendolyn Charles, have read the Consent Agreement and Order, understand it, and agree to be bound by its terms and conditions. I specifically acknowledge that failure to comply with the terms of the Consent Agreement and Order may result in further revocation or suspension of my 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.

DATED: 12/6/12



Gwendolyn Charles

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 6th day or December, 2012, at New Orleans, Louisiana.


Notary Public
Print Name: WALTER A. BOOKMAN, Notary Public
My commission expires: Orleans Parish Louisiana
My Commission is for Life
La. Bar No. 01719

ORDER

The Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners, having examined the Consent Agreement and Order, Case No. 2012-140, adopted the Consent Agreement and Order in this matter.

DATED this 14th day of December, 2012, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
EXAMINERS

Judith Haspel, LCSW
Judith Haspel, LCSW

Michael Hickerson, RSW

Lisa Lipsey, LCSW
Lisa Lipsey, LCSW

John E. McBride, LCSW
John McBride, LCSW

Carla Moore, LMSW

Parker Sternbergh, LCSW
Parker Sternbergh, LCSW