

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF  
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**COMPLAINT NUMBER 2014-96**

**KERI NASH WATSON**

**LICENSE NO. 9136**

**CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER**

**WHEREAS**, Keri Watson, (“Ms. Watson”) 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. Watson 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. Watson, has admitted the following:

1. Respondent, Keri Nash Watson, (“Ms. Watson”) is a Licensed Masters Social Worker (“LMSW”), 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. 9136.
2. Ms. Watson signed an Agreement with the IPP on January 25, 2013. This Agreement was subsequently signed by the Board’s chairperson on February 6, 2013.

Keri Watson 2014-96  
Initial: 

3. Item Five (5) of the Agreement reads: "Participant agrees that functional impairment involving excessive or habitual use of alcohol and/or mood-altering drugs requires complete and timely compliance with random drug and/or alcohol screening and the monitoring thereof at such intervals and for such term as specified by the Board or IPP[.] Participant agrees to check-in daily with the Board-approved screening company."
4. On or about November 19, 2013, Ms. Watson was chosen for a random screening, and did not perform the screening as required.
5. Item Six (6) of the Agreement reads: "Participant agrees to totally abstain from any mood altering drugs or substances unless appropriately prescribed by a licensed physician or dentist treating an illness or condition requiring such medication(s)..."
6. On January 16, 2014, the IPP Manager received a report showing a positive result on the PEth test administered to test for alcohol. The collection date for this test was January 3, 2014.
7. In item Seventeen (17) of the Agreement, Ms. Watson agreed that full compliance with the terms and conditions of the Agreement is a prerequisite of her continued social work practice. Further, in this item, Ms. Watson agrees that any failure to comply can form the basis of disciplinary action by the Board, which include suspension or revocation of her license, or other action deemed appropriate by the Board.
8. In item Eighteen (18) of the Agreement, Ms. Watson acknowledges and agrees that the practice of social work by an impaired social worker poses

a serious threat to the public health, safety and welfare. Further, Ms. Watson specifically agrees that non-compliance relative to impairment, namely, receipt by the board of a positive, unexplained substance abuse/drug screen report and failure to provide an adequate sample for the substance-abuse test or screen, during the monitoring period warrants immediate action to enable the Board to protect the public.

**WHEREAS**, by failing to comply with all conditions of the Agreement, Ms. Watson has violated an order of the Board, such action which is cause for discipline pursuant to La. R.S. 37:2717(A)(5).

**WHEREAS**, by failing to comply with all conditions of the Agreement, such non-compliance with is specifically acknowledged by Ms. Watson as posing a serious threat to the public health, safety and welfare and warranting immediate action to enable the Board to protect the public, Ms. Watson's continued ability to practice is potentially detrimental to the client, which is cause for discipline pursuant to La. R.S. 37:2717(A)(7).

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Watson has indicated her desire to resolve this matter through a Consent Agreement and Order;

**WHEREAS**, the undersigned Assistant Attorney General has confirmed the respondent's 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.

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

1. Ms. Watson agrees to voluntarily surrender her license and right to practice for a period of one (1) year. After this time period has elapsed, on or after March 28, 2015, Ms. Watson can reapply for licensure, meeting any requirements that a new applicant would have to meet in order to become licensed. Should Ms. Watson apply for licensure from the Board at a future time, Ms. Watson acknowledges that the IPP Manager will have the opportunity to review her application and request the Board impose specific conditions before granting a license, such as obtaining an evaluation from an individual approved by the IPP Manager that Ms. Watson is fit to practice social work.
2. Ms. Watson shall pay all legal costs associated with Complaint No. 2014-96 in the amount of eight hundred and twelve dollars and 50/100 (\$812.50) 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.
3. Ms. Watson specifically acknowledges that failure to comply with the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order, and any Participation Agreement entered into as a consequence of this Consent Agreement and Order, may result in a denial, revocation, or suspension of any license, certificate, or registration issued by, or applied for, in accordance with La. R.S. 37:2717.

**Waiver of Rights.** Licensee is aware that she has the right to consult with an attorney of her choice and understands she has the right to an administrative hearing on the facts in this case. She understands and agrees that by signing this Agreement, she is waiving her rights to a hearing. Further, she understands and agrees that 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 she is voluntarily and knowingly giving up her right to present oral and documentary evidence, to present rebuttal evidence, to cross-examine witnesses against 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.

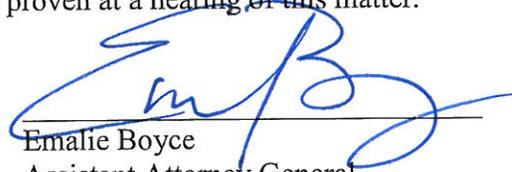
**Address of Board.** All payments ordered and any reports required by this Consent Agreement and Order shall be addressed to: Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners, 18550 Highland Road, Suite B, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809.

**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 2014-96, 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: 3/27/14

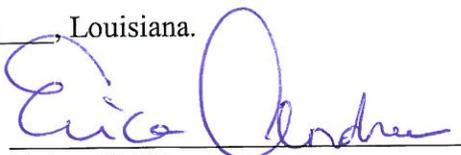
  
Emalie Boyce  
Assistant Attorney General  
Prosecutor

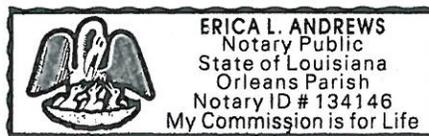
I, Keri Watson, have read the Consent Agreement and Order, understand it, and agree to be bound by its terms and conditions. I specifically acknowledge that failure to comply with the terms of the Consent Agreement and Order may result in revocation or suspension of my license. The admissions contained herein will be considered proven and the only issue will be failure to follow the terms of the Consent Agreement and Order.

DATED: 3/25/14

  
Keri Watson, LMSW

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 25<sup>th</sup> day or March, 2014, at New Orleans, Louisiana.

  
Notary Public  
Print Name:  
My commission expires:



**ORDER**

The Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners, having examined the Consent Agreement and Order, Case No. 2014-96, adopted the Consent Agreement and Order in this matter.

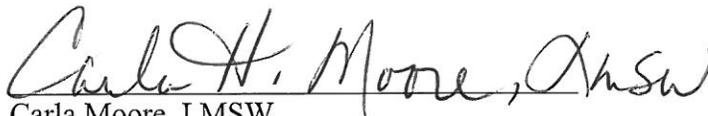
DATED this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2013 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK  
EXAMINERS

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Judith Haspel, LCSW

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Lipsey, LCSW

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John McBride, LCSW

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carla Moore, LMSW

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Showers, RSW

  
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Parker Sternbergh, LCSW