

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS**

IN THE MATTER OF

COMPLAINT NUMBER 2015-177

MEGAN TUGGLE

LICENSE NO. 12748

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

WHEREAS, Megan Tuggle (“Ms. Tuggle”) 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. Tuggle 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. Tuggle has admitted the following:

1. Ms. Tuggle is a Licensed Master 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. 12748.
2. In order to obtain licensure by the Board as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Ms. Tuggle was required by La. R.S. 37:2708(A)(3) to complete at least three thousand eight hundred forty hours of postgraduate social work experience in a setting practicing social work under the supervision of a Board-approved clinical supervisor.

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3. Tonja Chopfield-Jackson (“Ms. Jackson”) was Ms. Tuggle’s approved clinical supervisor from December 2014 to June 2015.
4. Ms. Jackson wrote a supervision plan for Ms. Tuggle which was not submitted to the Board.
5. Ms. Tuggle rewrote the supervision plan and forged Ms. Jackson’s signature to the plan.
6. Ms. Tuggle submitted the rewritten supervision plan with the forged signature to the Board.

WHEREAS, by submitting the rewritten supervision plan with a forged signature, Ms. Tuggle has violated Rule 111(G)(5) which is cause for disciplinary action pursuant to La. R.S. 37:2717(A)(3); La. R.S. 37:2717(A)(5) and La. R.S. 37:2717(A)(11).

WHEREAS, Ms. Tuggle 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. Tuggle accepts the following administrative action which is a final decision pursuant to La. R.S. 49:958:

1. Ms. Tuggle shall not get credit hours of supervised postgraduate social work as required by La. R.S. 37:2708(A)(3) for the period of December 2014 to June 2015.
2. Ms. Tuggle 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. This exam is available on the Board's website at www.labswe.org.

3. Ms. Tuggle shall pay all legal costs associated with Complaint No. 2015-177 in the amount of THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS AND 00100 (\$375.00) 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.
4. In the event Ms. Tuggle decides to continue supervision for the purpose of obtaining her ~~LCSW~~ **LCSW**, her plan of supervision shall include under the section for Ethics a discussion relating to this Consent Agreement and Order.
5. Ms. Tuggle specifically acknowledges that failure to comply with the terms 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).

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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 2015-177 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: Feb. 12, 2016

Madeline Carbonette
Madeline Carbonette
Assistant Attorney General
Prosecutor

I, Megan Tuggle, 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: 2/18/2016

Megan Tuggle, LMSW
Megan Tuggle, LMSW

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 18th day of January, 2016, at New Orleans, Louisiana.

Nathan M. Chiantella
Notary Public
Print Name: **NATHAN M. CHIANTELLA**
My commission expires: **Notary Public**
State of Louisiana
LSBA # 35450
My Commission Is For Life

ORDER

The Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners, having examined the Consent Agreement and Order, Case No. 2015-177, adopted the Consent Agreement and Order in this matter.

DATED this 26th day of February 2016 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

Judith Haspel, LCSW
Judith Haspel, LCSW

Yolanda Burnom, LCSW
Yolanda Burnom LCSW

Carla Moore, LMSW
Carla Moore, LMSW

Marguerite "Peggy" Salley, LCSW

Robert Showers, RSW
Robert Showers, RSW

John Shalett, LCSW-BACS
John Shalett, LCSW-BACS

Paulette Walker, M.Ed.
Paulette Walker, M.Ed., Public Member