

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS**

IN THE MATTER OF

**CASONYA SIMS-WILLIAMS AKA
CASONYA WILLIAMS, RSW
REGISTRATION NO. 9661**

COMPLAINT NO. 2015-146

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER

This matter came before a Hearing Panel of the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners ("Board") in executive session on October 2, 2020, at the Board's office located at 18550 Highland Road, Suite B in Baton Rouge pursuant to La. R.S. 37:2717 and L.A.C. 46:XXV.909.

Present were:

Hearing panel members: Jennifer Burch, LCSW-BACS; LaTonya Charles, LMSW, Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS; John Shallett, LCSW-BACS; and Ruth Weinzettle, LCSW-BACS;

Casonya Sims-Williams ("Respondent");

Madeline S. Carbonette, Assistant Attorney General serving as Prosecutor; and

Sheri M. Morris serving as Counsel to the Hearing Panel.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent is a Registered Social Worker ("RSW"), authorized by the Board to engage in the practice of social work in Louisiana pursuant to the Social Work Practice Act, La. R.S. 37:2701, *et seq.* as evidenced by Registration No. 9661.
2. On or about September 25, 2019, Respondent was indicted for health care fraud in the *United States of America v. Casonya Williams*, Criminal No. 19-119-BAJ-EWD in the United State District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana, (Exhibit SWB 13).
3. On or about November 9, 2019, Respondent executed a Plea Agreement wherein she entered a plea of guilty to one felony count of health care fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. §1347 in *United States of America v. Casonya Williams*, Criminal No. 19-119-BAJ-EWD in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana. (Exhibit SWB 14).

4. Respondent stipulated to facts in the Plea Agreement including that while acting in her capacity as a RSW Respondent:
 - a. “knowingly caused behavioral health services providers to submit approximately \$176,574.52 in false and fraudulent claims to Medicaid, which were ultimately paid by Medicaid.” (Exhibit SWB14, p. 7); and
 - b. caused a “false and fraudulent claim to be submitted to Medicaid, and aided and abetted the submission of such claim, which claim indicated that a behavioral health service had been rendered to a Medicaid recipient, when in reality, the purported service was not provided,” (Ex. SWB 14, p. 7).
5. Respondent testified under oath that she did not submit the false or fraudulent claims, she only gave her password to her employer who must have entered the false or fraudulent claims. Respondent provided text messages showing a request for her password, (Exhibit Respondent 1).
6. Respondent’s testimony did not address the allegations in the Bill of Information, (Exhibit SWB 13) or the facts stipulated to in the Plea Agreement, (Exhibit SWB 14).

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. La. R.S. 37:2717(A)(1) authorizes the Board to suspend Respondent’s license upon a “a plea ... of guilty” to a felony.
2. La. R.S. 37:2717(A)(11) authorizes the Board to suspend Respondent’s license due to her plea of guilty for “[u]nprofessional or unethical conduct as defined in the rules and regulations adopted by the board.” Specifically, L.A.C. 46:XXV.107(A) requiring social workers to maintain the qualification of good moral character.
3. La. R.S. 37:2717(C) authorizes the Board to recover attorney’s fees, costs and expenses incurred in connection with enforcement of Chapter 35 of Title 37 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

ORDER

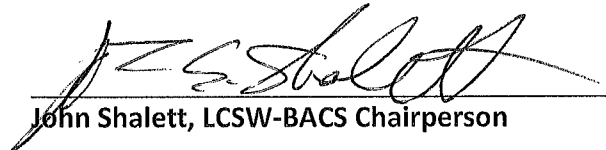
Considering Respondent’s testimony and the evidence presented;

IT IS ORDERED that the Registered Social Worker Registration No. 9661 issued to Casonya Sims-Williams is hereby suspended for a minimum of 3 years and until successful completion of the terms of any sentence imposed in *United States of America v. Casonya Williams*, Criminal No. 19-119-BAJ-EWD in the United State District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Casonya Sims-Williams is hereby assessed all costs of this proceeding in the amount of \$ 1,861.30 to be paid to the Louisiana Board of Social Work Examiners within 30 days of this Order.

Signed this 19 day of November 2020.

**Louisiana State Board of Social Work
Examiners**

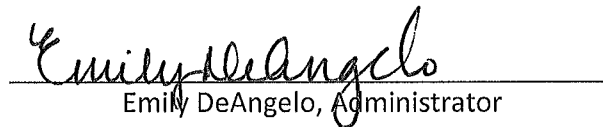

John Shalett, LCSW-BACS Chairperson

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to L.A.C. 46:XXV. 937(c) a copy of the above and foregoing Order has been forwarded via Certified U.S. Mail this 19 day of November 2020 to:

Casonya Sims-Williams
607 J. W. Davis Drive
Hammond, LA 70403

Madeline S. Carbonette, Asst. Attorney General
Louisiana Department of Justice
P. O. Box 94005
Baton Rouge, LA 70804


Emily DeAngelo, Administrator