

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS**

IN THE MATTER OF

COMPLAINT NO. 2023-100

CALEB STEPHENS, LMSW

LICENSE NO. 11814

INTERIM CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

NOW COME, CALEB STEPHENS (“Mr. Stephens”) and the LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS (hereinafter the “Board” or “LABSWE”), who agree as follows:

1.

Mr. Stephens is licensed by the Board as a Licensed Master’s Social Worker (“LMSW”) in the State of Louisiana, pursuant to the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act, La. R.S. 37:2701 *et seq.*, as evidenced by License No. 11814.

2.

On February 2, 2023, the LABSWE received information from the Louisiana State Police indicating that Mr. Stephens was arrested on January 19, 2023, by the Rapides Parish Sheriff’s Office, and charged with 101 counts of Pornography Involving Juveniles. Said statute makes it unlawful for a person to produce, promote, advertise, distribute, possess, or possess with the intent to distribute pornography involving juveniles.

3.

Mr. Stephens did not contact the Board to report the January 19, 2023, arrest, or charges to the Board. Thereafter, the Board, through counsel, attempted to contact Mr. Stephens to discuss the status of his license. Mr. Stephens did not respond to any attempts by the Board to reach him.

4.

On February 2, 2023, the Board sent to Mr. Stephens' address of record, via U.S. Certified Mail, notice of the Board's receipt of information regarding the January 19, 2023, arrest and requested information regarding his employment as a social worker. The Certified Mail was delivered to Mr. Stephens; address of record on February 6, 2023.

5.

At its next scheduled meeting on February 24, 2023, the Board issued a Findings of Facts, Conclusions of Law and Order in the captioned matter whereby the license of Mr. Stephens to practice social work in the state of Louisiana was summarily suspended pending further proceedings on March 24, 2023.

6.

Pursuant to a Public Records Request submitted by counsel for the Board, the Rapides Parish Sheriff's Office ("RPSO") provided its Case Report regarding the arrest of Mr. Stephens, RPSO Case number 2023-00000424. Therein, the following facts were stated in the narrative of the report:

1. On or about December 13, 2022, the RPSO received a complaint from the Louisiana Bureau of Investigation advising that it reviewed a Cybertip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The Cybertip indicated that a user at the address of Mr. Stephens uploaded one or more images/files of what appeared to be child pornography to Bing Image Search and utilized the search engine to search for related child pornography images. Upon review of the files, the images were that of what

appeared to be two prepubescent females whose nude genitals were the main focus of the image.

2. During the investigation, Mr. Stephens was identified as a suspect. Multiple search warrants were executed, which included a search of his residence and electronic devices.
3. According to the narrative of the report, probable cause was established, and warrants granted for the arrest of Mr. Stephens in reference to 101 counts of Pornography Involving Juveniles (victim under 13).

7.

The criminal case against Mr. Stephens relative to the above listed charges has not yet been filed by the District Attorney for Rapides Parish.

8.

Disciplinary counsel for the Board communicated with counsel for Mr. Stephens, who indicated that Mr. Stephens desired to resolve this matter through an Interim Consent Agreement and Order. Accordingly, to avoid a disciplinary hearing until the criminal matter involving Mr. Stephens has been resolved, the parties agree to the following, to be made an Order of the Board:

- a. The SUSPENSION of License No. 11814 issued to Caleb Stephens shall continue in effect, and his license is indefinitely SUSPENDED. Thus, while this Interim Consent Agreement and Order is in effect, Mr. Stephens is precluded from providing social work services in any capacity. Mr. Stephens represents that he has not worked as a social worker since receipt of the Findings of Facts, Conclusions of Law and Order from the Board.
- b. Before further proceedings in this matter may take place, including an informal conference, filing of an administrative complaint, or an administrative hearing regarding the merits of the complaint against Mr. Stephens, the following conditions must be met:

- (1) The criminal case against Mr. Stephens in Rapides Parish resulting from the arrest noted above must be entirely concluded, including all appeals.
 - (2) Mr. Stephens must have served the entire sentence, if any, arising from the pending criminal case, including probation, parole and/or supervised release.
- c. Mr. Stephens waives any potential defense he could make regarding the timeliness of the administrative proceedings brought by the Board if the proceedings are initiated after the time allowed pursuant to any administrative rule or law governing same.

9.

By signing this Interim Consent Agreement, Mr. Stephens agrees that the Board has jurisdiction in this matter, and waives his right to a formal administrative hearing and to judicial review of this Interim Consent Agreement. However, Mr. Stephens reserves the right to a formal administrative hearing relative to the merits of the case against him once the conditions at Paragraph 8, above, are met. While this Interim Consent Agreement is in effect, Mr. Stephens shall continue to renew his license with the Board.

10.

By signing this Interim Consent Agreement, Mr. Stephens agrees that any failure to comply with the terms of this Agreement is a basis for further discipline by the Board.

11.

Mr. Stephens further understands that this Interim Consent Agreement shall constitute a Public Record pursuant to La. R.S. 44:1 *et seq.* and is considered disciplinary action by the Board.

12.

The parties agree that this Interim Consent Order does not serve as a resolution of the captioned complaint and is merely being entered into on an interim basis until the pending criminal charges are resolved.

Both Mr. Stephens and the Board stipulate that this Interim Consent Agreement shall not become effective and shall not become binding on the Board unless and until approved by the Board at a meeting of a quorum of the Board.


I, CALEB STEPHENS, understand that this Agreement is effective upon an affirmative vote by the Board at a formal meeting. It is also understood that should the Board not approve the Interim Consent Agreement, my agreement thereon does not preclude the Board from requiring a formal hearing of my case. I further understand that should this Interim Consent Agreement not be accepted by the Board, the presentation to and consideration by the Board of this Agreement, including presented documentary evidence and information, shall not unfairly or illegally prejudice or preclude the Board, or any of its present or future members, from further participation in hearings or resolution of these proceedings. Mr. Stephens also specifically authorizes a member of the Disciplinary Committee, the Board Administrator, or the Board attorney to present this Agreement to the Board for its consideration, and to fully disclose to and discuss with the Board the nature and results of the investigation, and he waives any objection to such disclosures under La. R.S. 49:950, *et seq.*

SIGNED, AGREED TO, AND ENTERED on this 17 day of March, 2023.



 CALEB STEPHENS (License No. 11814)

Submitted for Board Approval By:



 James R. Raines, Prosecuting Attorney

BOARD ORDER
and
ACCEPTANCE OF THE INTERIM CONSENT AGREEMENT BY THE
LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

By a majority vote of the Board members voting in favor of the foregoing Interim Consent Agreement at the Board meeting on March 24, 2023, the Board hereby adopts said Agreement, and makes it an Order of this Board.

FOR THE BOARD:


Dr. Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS, Chair