

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF  
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS**

**IN THE MATTER OF  
HEATHER KUNTZ  
LICENSE NO. 17670**

**COMPLAINT NUMBER 2023-94**

**CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER**

**WHEREAS**, Heather Kuntz (“Ms. Kuntz”) is a credentialed social worker subject to the jurisdiction and rules and regulations of the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners (the “Board”);

**WHEREAS**, on January 18, 2023, the Board initiated a complaint against Ms. Kuntz that alleged that Ms. Kuntz was practicing without a license in excess of 90 days;

**WHEREAS** on January 24, 2023, the Board notified Ms. Kuntz of the complaint filed against her, provided Ms. Kuntz with a summary of the nature of the complaint, and requested that Ms. Kuntz provide a response to the complaint;

**WHEREAS**, by correspondence received by the Board, Ms. Kuntz responded to the complaint, giving her response to the allegations contained therein;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to a complaint and an administrative investigation, Ms. Kuntz 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. 49:975(D) of the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Kuntz has admitted the following:

1. Ms. Kuntz 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. 17670.
2. Ms. Kuntz was awarded a Master of Social Work degree from Louisiana State University on May 7, 2021.
3. Ms. Kuntz began the application process for LMSW on December 6, 2022. On her application she answered “yes” to being employed in social work in Louisiana.
4. The employment section of her application documents indicated that she has been employed with Catholic Charities Diocese of Baton Rouge since May 18, 2021, as a Refugee Mental Health Coordinator.
5. Ms. Kuntz listed on her LMSW application that her job duties as a Refugee Mental Health Coordinator included conducting mental health screenings, overseeing and facilitating support groups, presenting mental health orientations, and coordinating mental health care for clients.

WHEREAS, by practicing social work without a license, Ms. Kuntz violated La. R.S. 37:2709, which is cause for disciplinary action pursuant to La. R.S. 37:2717(A)(4);

WHEREAS, undersigned counsel has confirmed Ms. Kuntz’s desire to resolve this matter through a Consent Agreement and Order;

WHEREAS, Ms. Kuntz agrees not to repeat the misconduct mentioned in this Consent Agreement and Order, and acknowledges that any further misconduct mentioned in this Consent Agreement and Order will be considered a violation of the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order and shall be cause for further disciplinary action.

WHEREAS, Ms. Kuntz recognizes her right to have an administrative adjudication of the charges outlined in the complaint and notice letter, at which time Ms. Kuntz would be entitled to be represented by legal counsel, to call witnesses, and to present witnesses on her behalf in defense or in mitigation of the charged made, and to a decision thereon by the Board based upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law in accordance with the Louisiana Administrative Procedures Act. Ms. Kuntz nonetheless waives her right to formal adjudication and, pursuant to La. R.S. 49:975(D), consents to the entry of the Consent Agreement and Order set forth hereinafter. Ms. Kuntz also acknowledges that she waives any rights to which she may be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, La. R.S. 49:951, et seq., or which she otherwise may be afforded by any law, to contest her agreement to, or the force and effect of this Consent Agreement and Order, in any Court or other forum.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that in consideration of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by La. R.S. 49:975(D), the Board orders and Ms. Kuntz accepts the following administrative action which is a final decision pursuant to La. R.S. 49:977:

1. The LMSW license of Heather Kuntz to be engaged in the practice of social work in the State of Louisiana, as evidenced by license number 17670 shall be, and is hereby **REPRIMANDED**. Accordingly, Ms. Kuntz accepts and shall maintain strict compliance with the following terms and conditions.
2. Ms. Kuntz shall pass the Board's Open Book Examination on the Social Work Practice Act and Rules, Standards & Procedures within nine months after the date that all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order.
3. Ms. Kuntz shall complete nine hours of pre-approved continuing education in the area of social work ethics within nine months after the date that all parties sign this Consent

Agreement and Order. These hours are to be pre-approved by the Board prior to completion. These hours are in addition to the continuing education required to renew her license.

4. Ms. Kuntz shall complete one hour of supervision for six months. Supervision shall be provided by an LCSW who agrees to submit quarterly reports to the Board. This supervision does not count towards the supervised work experience required to qualify for LCSW.
5. Ms. Kuntz shall pay a fine of FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY-TWO DOLLARS AND 50/100 (\$562.50) within twelve months after the date that 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. Payments shall be made by credit card, certified check, or money order.
6. Ms. Kuntz shall pay all legal costs associated with this complaint in the amount of THREE HUNDRED FIFTEEN DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$315.00) within twelve months after 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. Payments shall be made by credit card, certified check, or money order.
7. Ms. Kuntz 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.
8. Ms. Kuntz further acknowledges that failure to reimburse the fees set forth above at Paragraphs 5 and 6 will require the Board to take further action in collection of this debt.

Respondent has nine (9) months to reimburse the expenses before the debt will be considered final and transferred to the Louisiana Office of Debt Recovery (ODR). After transfer, the debt is subject to an additional collection fee of up to twenty-five percent (25%) of the total debt liability, as provided for in LA R.S. 47:1676 (E).

9. Ms. Kuntz shall report the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order to any board or agency located in the United States with which she is licensed or registered.
10. By agreeing to the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order, Ms. Kuntz waives all rights to appeal this adjudication.

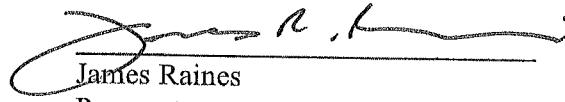
**Effect of Non-Acceptance of Agreement.** Ms. Kuntz acknowledges that this Consent Agreement and Order is subject to the approval of the Board. She further acknowledges and agrees that if the Board rejects this agreement, it will be void, and an Administrative Complaint may be filed relative to the allegations contained herein. If this Consent Agreement and Order is rejected by the Board, it will not constitute a waiver of Ms. Kuntz's right to a hearing on the matters alleged in an Administrative Complaint and the admissions contained herein will have no effect. She further agrees that if the Board rejects this Consent Agreement and Order, the members of the Board may decide the matter after a hearing, and their consideration of this Consent Agreement and Order shall not alone be grounds for recusal of any member of the Board, including any claims that the Board is biased against 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 in, 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).

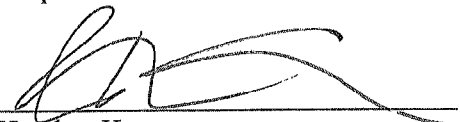
The prosecutor acknowledges negotiation and preparation of this Consent Agreement and Order in order to resolve, with prejudice, all matters for which the social worker could be charged under Complaint No. 2023-94 and further certifies that this Consent Agreement and Order is consistent with the evidence, adequately addresses the complaint, and represents a true and correct statement of that which could be proven at a hearing of this matter.

DATED: 9/14/23

  
James Raines  
Prosecutor

I, Heather Kuntz, 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. I make these acknowledgements and waivers in support of a final disposition of the pending investigation of Complaint No. 2023-94 by Consent Agreement and Order pursuant to La. R.S. 49:975(D), in lieu of the institution and prosecution of formal administrative proceedings, and accordingly consent to the entirety of the Order set forth above and further waive any right to which I may be entitled under the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act or any other law to contest, in any court, my agreement to this Order. By my subscription hereto, I also hereby authorize the Prosecutor to present this Order to the LABSWE for its consideration and to disclose to and discuss with the LABSWE the nature and results of the investigation of this matter. I herein waive any objection to such disclosure based on due process of law under either the State or Federal Constitution or under State statutory law, including La. R.S. 49:977.2. I expressly acknowledge that the disclosure of such information to the LABSWE shall be without prejudice to the Prosecutor's authority to file a formal Administrative Complaint, or the LABSWE's capacity to adjudicate such Administrative Complaint, should the LABSWE decline to approve this Consent Agreement and Order. I further acknowledge my awareness that should the LABSWE approve this Consent Agreement and Order that the Consent Agreement and Order will become a matter of public record.

DATED: 8/30/23


  
Heather Kuntz

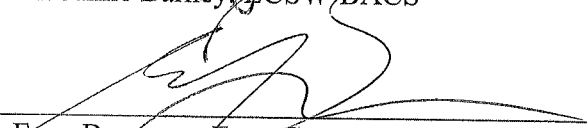
**ORDER**


The Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners, having examined the Consent Agreement and Order, Case No. 2023-94, adopted the Consent Agreement and Order in this matter.

DATED this 15 day of September, 2023, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

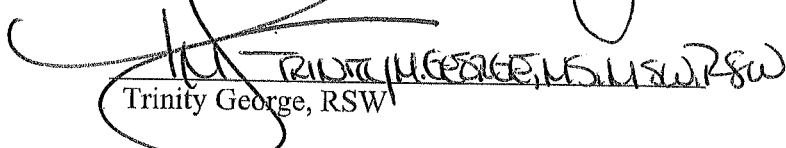
LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL  
WORK EXAMINERS

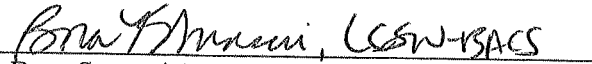
  
Dr. Jamie Barney, LCSW-BACS


  
Evan Bergeron, Esq., Consumer Member

  
Dr. Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS

  
Melissa Smith Haley, LMSW

  
Trinity George, RSW

  
Bora Sunseri, LCSW-BACS

  
Candice Sorry, LCSW-BACS