

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS**

IN THE MATTER OF

COMPLAINT NO. 2021-191

JADE STEVENS

LICENSE NO. 13505

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

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

WHEREAS, on February 20, 2023, the Board initiated a complaint against Ms. Stevens based upon her failure to report a 2019 arrest within seven days of arrest, failing to timely cooperate with a Board investigation, and answering “no” to “have you been charged or convicted of any state or federal, civil or criminal law...” on her August 25, 2020, renewal application.

WHEREAS, by letter dated March 30, 2023, the Board notified Ms. Stevens of the complaint filed against her, provided Ms. Stevens with a summary of the nature of the complaint, and requested that Ms. Stevens provide a response to the complaint with ten (10) days of receipt;

WHEREAS, pursuant to a complaint and an administrative investigation, Ms. Stevens 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;

WHEREAS, Ms. Stevens has admitted to the following:


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1. Ms. Stevens 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 Number 13505.
2. Complainant is the Board.
3. Ms. Stevens was placed under arrest by the Jefferson Parish Sheriff’s Office on or around July of 2019, and charged with theft. Ms. Stevens did not report the arrest within seven days of the arrest date.
4. On August 25, 2021, Ms. Stevens submitted a renewal application to LABSWE. On the application, she answered “no” to, “Have you been charged or convicted of any state or federal, civil or criminal law?”
5. On June 7, 2021, Ms. Stevens self-reported the July 2019 arrest and reported that she was currently going through pre-trial diversion for the charge.
6. On June 8, 2021, LABSWE sent a request via certified mail to Ms. Stevens as part of the Board’s investigation, wherein the Board requested from her the arrest report, court documents related to the matter, and copy of pretrial diversion paperwork within 15 days of receipt. The Board only received a copy of the arrest report.
7. On December 8, 2021, LABSWE sent a notification that it had not received the documentation requested in the June 8, 2021, letter, and advising Ms. Stevens that she had ten days to respond. The Board did not receive a response from Ms. Stevens.

WHEREAS, by failing to timely report the arrest, failing timely cooperate with the LABSWE in their investigation, and falsifying information on her renewal application, Ms. Stevens violated La. R.S. 37:2717(A)(3), (5) & (12), La. Admin Code tit. 46:XXV §107(A), and §117(C) & (E).

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

WHEREAS, Ms. Stevens 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. Stevens recognizes her right to have an administrative adjudication of the charges outlined in the complaint and notice letter, at which time Ms. Stevens 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 charges 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 Procedure Act. Ms. Stevens 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. Stevens 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. Stevens accepts the following administrative action which is a final decision pursuant to La. R.S. 49:977:

1. The LMSW license of Jade Stevens to be engaged in the practice of social work in the State of Louisiana, as evidenced by license number 13505 shall be, and is


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hereby REPRIMANDED. Accordingly, Ms. Stevens accepts and shall maintain strict compliance with the following terms and conditions.

2. Ms. Stevens shall pay a fine in the amount of TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$250.00) within one (1) year from the date all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order for failing to timely report an arrest. Ms. Stevens shall pay a fine in the amount of FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$500.00) within one (1) year from the date all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order for falsifying information on a renewal form. 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. Payment shall be made by credit card, certified check, or money order.
3. Ms. Stevens shall reimburse legal costs associated with Complaint No. 2021-191 in the amount of \$270.00 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. Payment shall be made by credit card, certified check, or money order.
4. Ms. Stevens shall pass the Board's Open Book Examination on the Social Work Practice Act and Rules, Standards & Procedures within three (3) months after the date the parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order.
5. Ms. Stevens specifically acknowledges that failure to comply with the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order may result in a denial, revocation, or suspension of

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any license, certificate, or registration issued by, or applied for, in accordance with La. R.S. 37:2717.

6. Ms. Stevens further acknowledges that failure to reimburse the fees set forth above at Paragraphs 2 and 3 will require the Board to take further action in collection of this debt. Respondent has twelve (12) 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).
7. Ms. Stevens shall report the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order to any board or agency with which she is licensed or registered.
8. By agreeing to the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order, Ms. Stevens waives all rights to appeal this adjudication.

Effect of Non-Acceptance of Agreement. Ms. Stevens 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 Consent Agreement and Order, 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. Stevens'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,

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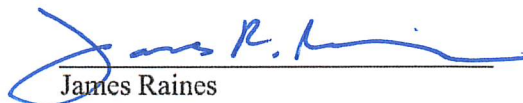
including any claims that the Board is biased against her, that it cannot fairly decide the case, or that it has received ex parte communication.

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 2021-191, 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: 2/3/23


James Raines
Prosecutor

I, Jade Stevens, 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. 2021-191

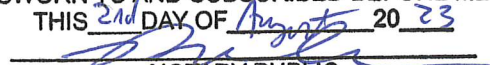
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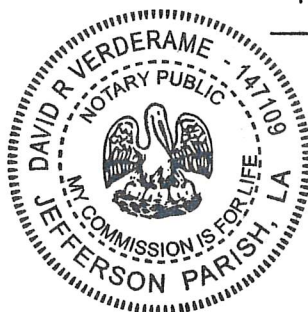

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by Consent Agreement and Order pursuant to La. R.S. 49:975(D), in lieu of the institution and prosecution of formal administrative proceedings, and accordingly consent to the entirety of the Order set forth above and further waive any right to which 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: August 2, 2023


Jade Stevens

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME
THIS 2nd DAY OF August 2023

NOTARY PUBLIC



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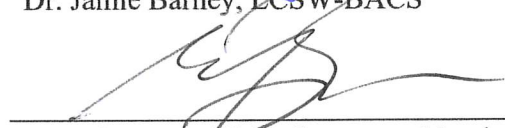
ORDER

The Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners, having examined the Consent Agreement and Order, Case No. 2021-191, adopted the Consent Agreement and Order in this matter.

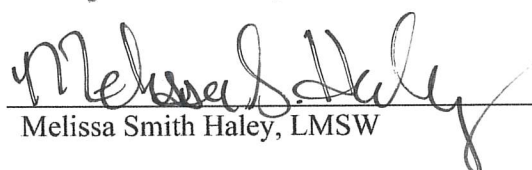
DATED this 11 day of August, 2023, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

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Dr. Jamie Barney, LCSW-BACS

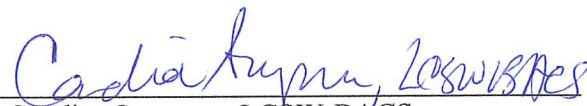

Evan Bergeron, Esq., Consumer Member


Dr. Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS


Melissa Smith Haley, LMSW

Trinity George, RSW


Bora Sunseri, LCSW-BACS


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