

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS**

**IN THE MATTER OF
MARLON WASHINGTON
LMSW LICENSE NO. 13946**

COMPLAINT NO. 2024-12

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

WHEREAS, Marlon Washington (“Mr. Washington”) 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, the Board received a complaint against Mr. Washington wherein it was alleged that Mr. Washington made inappropriate comments to his female coworkers regarding their bodies, relationships, and sex lives, and created a hostile work environment by his unwanted and inappropriate physical presence in his female coworkers’ workspaces. Follow up investigation revealed that Mr. Washington was also advertising himself as a LCSW on the website innerlighttherapycenter.com, referring to himself as a licensed clinical social worker in his description in Psychology Today, and was practicing clinical social work without the supervision of a LCSW.

WHEREAS, by letter dated July 18, 2023, the Board notified Mr. Washington of the complaint filed against him, provided Mr. Washington with a summary of the nature of the complaint, and requested that Mr. Washington cooperate with the board’s investigation;

WHEREAS, by letter dated March 4, 2024, the Board notified Mr. Washington that the investigation of the complaint filed against him was complete, advised of the amendment of the

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complaint to include additional possible violations, and requested his response within fifteen (15) days.

WHEREAS, by email dated March 19, 2024, Mr. Washington responded to the complaint, giving his response to the allegations contained therein;

WHEREAS, by email on April 24, 2024, the Board requested that Mr. Washington provide documentation relevant to its investigation of allegations related to his unauthorized scope of practice and advertising, to which Mr. Washington did not respond;

WHEREAS, pursuant to a complaint and an administrative investigation, Mr. Washington has indicated his 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, Mr. Washington has admitted to the following:

1. Mr. Washington is a Licensed Master of Social Work ("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 13946.
2. Mr. Washington engaged in unprofessional conduct and sexually harassed his female coworkers by making inappropriate comments to them and by his unwanted and inappropriate physical presence in his female coworkers' workspaces.
3. Mr. Washington practiced outside the scope of his licensure and without proper supervision by a LCSW.
4. Mr. Washington failed to respond to the board's April 24, 2024 request for information and documentation.

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WHEREAS, by engaging in unprofessional conduct and sexually harassing his female coworkers, by practicing outside the scope of his licensure without proper supervision, and by failing to cooperate in the Board's investigation, Mr. Washington violated La. R.S. 37:2715(A), La. R.S. 37:2717(A)(5) & (11), La. Admin Code tit. 46:XXV §107(A), La. Admin Code tit. 46:XXV §109(A)(1) & (C), La. Admin Code tit. 46:XXV §113(B)(3), La. Admin Code tit. 46:XXV §117(C), and La. Admin Code tit. 46:XXV §505.

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Washington 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, Mr. Washington recognizes his right to have an administrative adjudication of the charges outlined in the complaint and notice letter, at which time Mr. Washington would be entitled to be represented by legal counsel, to call witnesses, and to present witnesses on his 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. Mr. Washington nonetheless waives his 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. Mr. Washington also acknowledges that he waives any rights to which he may be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, La. R.S. 49:951, *et seq.*, or which he otherwise may be afforded by any law, to contest his agreement to, or the force and effect of this Consent Agreement and Order, in any Court or other forum.

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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 Mr. Washington accepts the following administrative action which is a final decision pursuant to La. R.S. 49:977:

1. The LMSW credential of Mr. Washington to be engaged in the practice of social work in the State of Louisiana, as evidenced by license number 13946 shall be, and is hereby **SUSPENDED** for a period of twelve (12) months. At the conclusion of the suspension period, Mr. Washington shall be placed on **PROBATION** for a period of two (2) years. Accordingly, Mr. Washington accepts and shall maintain strict compliance with the following terms and conditions.
2. During the probation period, Mr. Washington's practice of social work must be supervised by a Board-Approved Clinical Supervisor ("BACS") two (2) times per month for one (1) hour for twenty-four (24) months, during which time his license will stay on **PROBATION**. The BACS must make quarterly reports on Mr. Washington's progress to the Board. Mr. Washington agrees to release the disciplinary file associated with Complaint No. 2024-12 to the BACS.
3. Mr. Washington shall pay a fine in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$1,000.00)** 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. Mr. Washington shall reimburse legal costs associated with Complaint No. 2024-12 in the amount of **NINE HUNDRED THIRTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS**

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(\$930.00) 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.

5. Mr. Washington shall complete a total of twelve (12) hours of continuing education in the area of boundaries. These hours are to be pre-approved by the Board prior to completion. These continuing education hours must be completed in addition to all standard renewal requirements for his LMSW licensure. Mr. Washington shall provide the Board with evidence of attendance within twelve (12) months after all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order.
6. Mr. Washington 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.
7. No later than thirty (30) days from the date all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order, Mr. Washington shall contact his former agency and employer, Inner Light Therapy/Jayme Lyles, and advise of the Board's request that they provide written notification to all clients for whom he provided services during the period of his employment, informing the clients that Mr. Washington misrepresented his credential and was not a LCSW during the dates that he provided services at Inner Light Therapy. Mr. Washington shall provide the Board's Administrator with satisfactory documentation of the delivery of the prescribed communication to Inner Light Therapy/Jayme Lyles.

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8. Mr. Washington 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.
9. Mr. Washington further acknowledges that failure to reimburse the fees set forth above at Paragraphs 3 and 4 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).
10. Mr. Washington shall report the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order to any board or agency with which he is licensed, certified, or registered.
11. By agreeing to the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order, Mr. Washington waives all rights to appeal this adjudication.

Effect of Non-Acceptance of Agreement. Mr. Washington acknowledges that this Consent Agreement and Order is subject to the approval of the Board. He 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 Mr. Washington's right to a hearing on the matters alleged in an Administrative Complaint and the admissions contained herein will have no effect. He 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

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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 him, 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 2024-12, 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: 3/16/25
2/20/2025

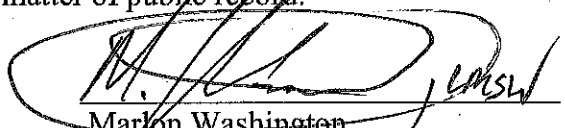

James Raines
Prosecutor

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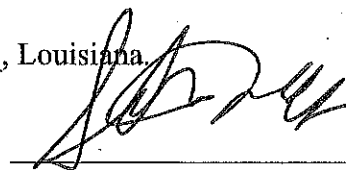
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I, Marlon Washington, have read the Consent Agreement and Order, understand it, and agree to be bound by its terms and conditions. I specifically acknowledge that failure to comply with the terms of the Consent Agreement and Order may result in revocation 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. 2024-12 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: 2/20/2025


Marlon Washington

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 20th day of February, 2025,
at Lafayette, Louisiana.

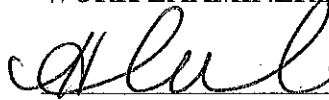

Notary Public
Print Name: Stuart T. Welch Parish of Lafayette, State of LA.
My Commission Expires: AT DEATH NOTARY #90390
BAR #31359

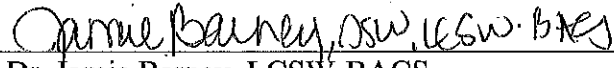
ORDER

The Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners, having examined the Consent Agreement and Order, Case No. 2024-12, adopted the Consent Agreement and Order in this matter.

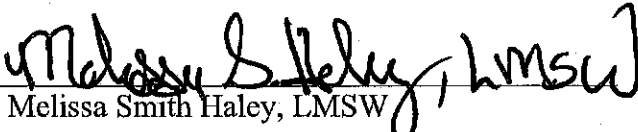
DATED this 21 day of March, 2025, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

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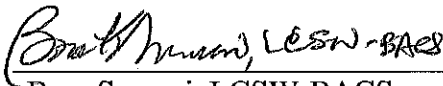
 DBA LCSW BACS
Dr. Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS


Dr. Jamie Barney, LCSW-BACS

Evan Bergeron, Esq., Consumer Member


Melissa Smith Haley, LMSW


Trinity George, RSW


Bora Sunseri, LCSW-BACS

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