

**COPY****BEFORE THE WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK****WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF  
SOCIAL WORK,****COMPLAINANT,****v.****CASE NO. 201616****JENNIFER A. FARMER,  
LICENSED SOCIAL WORKER,  
LICENSE NO. AP00943945,  
RESPONDENT.****CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER**

After due investigation of information received regarding possible statutory and rule violations, the West Virginia Board of Social Work ("Board") has determined that there is probable cause to believe that Licensee Jennifer A. Farmer exhibited unprofessional and unethical conduct in the practice of social work, in violation of the provisions of *West Virginia Code* §§ 30-30-1 through 30-30-29 and 25 C.S.R. §§ 1-1 through 7-2. Ms. Farmer received written notice of the allegations against her pursuant to the rules of the Board and the laws of this State. Rather than proceeding to an administrative hearing, the parties have agreed to the entry of the following Consent Agreement and Order to resolve and dispose of this matter.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Board adopts the following factual findings:

1. Jennifer A. Farmer ("Ms. Farmer") is a licensee of the Board, holding License No. AP00943945, and is subject to the license requirements of the Board.

2. At all times relevant and material to the events set out in this *Consent Agreement and Order*, Ms. Farmer worked as a Social Worker for the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources.
3. On August 10, 2016, the Board received a written complaint alleging that Ms. Farmer, a Child Protective Service Worker who was responsible for evaluating the safety and well-being of children in a home, had documented making initial face-to-face contacts with a family, but had never actually made the face-to-face contacts she documented.
4. On August 15, 2016, the Board forwarded the complaint to Ms. Farmer and asked her to respond to the allegations within thirty days. Ms. Farmer timely replied with a written response dated September 8, 2016, in which she denied any wrongdoing.
5. The Board appointed an Investigator, who obtained and reviewed various relevant documents, and interviewed Ms. Farmer and the other relevant parties. Based on the investigation, the Investigator substantiated the allegations and recommended that the Board find the existence of probable cause.
6. At its January 19, 2018 Board Meeting, after reviewing the Report of Investigation and upon the recommendation of the Board's Complaint Committee, the Board found the existence of probable cause in violation of *West Virginia Code* § 30-30-26(g)(3) and the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics Standards 1.01, 3.04, 4.04, and 5.01.
7. The actions as described by the complainants, if proven, would constitute the violations of the social worker's ethical obligations to clients and to the professional of social work as set out in *West Virginia Code* § 30-30-26, 25 Code of State Regulations § 1-4, and the Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers Standards 1.01, 3.04, 4.04, and 5.01. These violations are grounds for disciplinary action by the Board.

## CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Board is a state entity governed by *West Virginia Code* §§30-30-1 through 30-30-29. It is a regulatory board created for regulating the practice of social work. W. VA. CODE § 30-30-4. In order to carry out its regulatory duties, the Board is empowered to suspend, revoke or otherwise discipline an individual's social work license under *West Virginia Code* § 30-30-5.
2. Ms. Farmer is a licensee of the Board and is subject to the license requirements of the Board. The Board has jurisdiction and authority to take disciplinary action against Ms. Farmer's license pursuant to *West Virginia Code* § 30-30-26.
3. Pursuant to 25 C.S.R. § 1-4, licensees must abide by the provisions of the Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers.
8. The conduct described above in the *Findings of Fact* section would, if proven, constitute violations of the social worker's ethical obligations to clients and to the professional of social work as set out in *West Virginia Code* § 30-30-26, 25 C.S.R. § 1-4, and the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics Standards 1.01, 3.04, 4.04, and 5.01.

## CONSENT OF LICENSEE

I, Jennifer A. Farmer, by affixing my signature hereto, acknowledge the following:

1. After having had the opportunity to consult with an attorney, I sign this Consent Agreement voluntarily, freely, without compulsion or duress, and understand that it has legal consequences.
2. No person or entity has made any promise or given any inducement whatsoever to encourage me to make this settlement other than as set forth herein.

3. I am aware that I may pursue this matter through appropriate administrative and/or court proceedings, and I am aware of my legal rights regarding this matter, but intelligently, knowingly, and voluntarily waive those rights.
4. I waive any defenses including, but not limited to, laches, statute of limitations, and estoppel, that I may have otherwise claimed as a condition of this agreement.
5. I admit that my actions violated the statutes and rules of the Board.
6. I acknowledge that the execution of this document constitutes disciplinary action by the Board. It is therefore considered to be public information, and information regarding this matter is available to any employer, prospective employer, or any other individual who may inquire as to the license status.

Jennifer A. Farmer, by signing this *Consent Agreement and Order*, agrees to the following:

#### **ORDER**

Based on the foregoing, the Board does hereby ORDER and DECREE that:

1. License No. AP00943945, held by Jennifer A. Farmer, will be suspended one year, beginning on the date of the entry of this *Consent Agreement and Order*.
2. During the one-year suspension, Ms. Farmer will complete twelve (12) contact hours of continuing education in area of Ethics approved by the West Virginia Board of Social Work. Ms. Farmer shall provide proof of completion to the Board.
3. Ms. Farmer shall reimburse the Board for all administrative expenses incurred by the Board in the investigation and disposition of this case within thirty (30) days of the entry of this *Consent Agreement and Order*.
4. After the one-year suspension, Ms. Farmer shall notify the Board to apply for reinstatement. Upon reinstatement, Ms. Farmer shall serve a one-year probationary

period, during which she will be mentored by an MSW-licensed individual. Ms. Farmer shall provide two (2) semiannual self-reports of what she has learned during her probationary experience.

5. This document is a public record as defined in *West Virginia Code* § 29B-1-2(4).
6. The Board is bound by law and by this Agreement to report the results of all disciplinary actions, including this matter, for posting in the Health Integrity Practitioners Data Bank through the Association of Social Work Boards and for posting on the Board's website.
7. Ms. Farmer acknowledges that the failure to comply with all provisions in this *Consent Agreement and Order* may result in additional disciplinary action.
8. This *Consent Agreement and Order* constitutes the entire agreement between the parties.

WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK

By:

Rita M. Brown  
Rita M. Brown, L.S.W., Chairperson

Entered:

3-6-18  
Date

Agreed to by:

Jennifer A. Farmer  
Jennifer A. Farmer, Respondent

3-5-18  
Date

Sworn and subscribed before me this 5<sup>th</sup> day of March 2018.  
My Commission expires: Jan 29, 2020

Jennifer M. Richmond  
Notary Public

