



**STATE OF OHIO
COUNSELOR AND SOCIAL WORKER BOARD**

ADJUDICATION ORDER
in the Matter of:

Roland Bluford #359667
Madison Correctional Institution
PO Box 740
London, Ohio 43140-0740

IN THE MATTER OF ROLAND BLUFORD TO PRACTICE AS A LICENSED SOCIAL WORKER IN THE STATE OF OHIO.

THE MATTER OF ROLAND BLUFORD CAME BEFORE THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE COUNSELOR AND SOCIAL WORKER BOARD'S PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE: JANE A. DAROFF, MAGGIE JACKSON, AND CHESTER PARTYKA. THE BOARD WAS REPRESENTED BY ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JONATHAN M. BOWMAN.

FINDINGS, ORDER, AND JOURNAL ENTRY

This matter came for consideration after a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing was issued to Roland Bluford by the Counselor and Social Worker Board on November 23, 1998.

Pursuant to R.C. 119.07 licensees are entitled to a hearing before the Board if such a hearing is requested within thirty days of the mailing of the Notice of Opportunity for Hearing. In this case, Roland Bluford failed to make a timely request for such a hearing, therefore pursuant to *Goldman v. State Medical Board* (March 29, 1996) Franklin County Court of Appeals, 95 APE 10-1358 a non-oral hearing was held before the Board on May 20, 1998. At this non-oral hearing the Board by and through their Assistant Attorney General Jonathan M. Bowman presented evidence in support of the Notice of Opportunity for Hearing. Roland Bluford was not present.

Summary of Evidence

State's Exhibits

1. Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Roland Bluford, dated November 23, 1998, and copies of Certified Mail Receipt Z337619074.

2. A letter dated November 27, 1998, from Mr. Bluford to the Board explaining his conviction.
3. Letter dated December 3, 1998, from the Board to Mr. Bluford requesting additional information.
4. Letter dated April 14, 1999, from the Board to Mr. Bluford scheduling a hearing on May 20, 1999, pursuant to *Goldman v. State Medical Board* (March 29, 1996) Franklin County Court of Appeals, 95 APE 10-1358.
5. Letter from the Board to Mr. Bluford scheduling a hearing on May 20, 1999, pursuant to *Goldman v. State Medical Board* (March 29, 1996) Franklin County Court of Appeals, 95 APE 10-1358.
6. Certified copies of the Journal Entry and Indictment regarding Roland Bluford from the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court.
7. Certified copies of the Journal Entry and Indictment regarding Roland Bluford from the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court.
8. Complaint received by the Board, signed September 11, 1998, concerning Roland Bluford.
9. Letter dated October 1, 1998, from the Board to the Cuyahoga County Clerk of Courts requesting information regarding Roland Bluford.
10. Letter dated September 18, 1998, from the Board to the complainant acknowledging receipt of the complaint.
11. Testimony of William L. Hegarty, Investigative Supervisor, for the Ohio Counselor and Social Worker Board.

Findings of Fact

On or about August 11, 1998, Roland Bluford was sentenced to three consecutive life terms in the Ohio Penal System after having been found guilty in the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas to rape in violation of Ohio Revised Code Section 2907.02 which is a first degree felony in the State of Ohio.

Conclusions of Law

ORC Section 4757.36(A)(5) provides that the Ohio Counselor and Social Worker Board may take disciplinary action against a licensee who has been convicted of a felony.

Discussion

The Board prior to rendering its decision, reviewed all the exhibits and testimony that was presented by the State of Ohio. Mr. Bluford was convicted of a felony. The victim was a minor female.

As required in the case of *Goldman v. State Medical Board* (March 29, 1996) Franklin County Court of Appeals 95APE10-1358, all cases where a Board issues a Notice for Opportunity for Hearing and the individual does not request a hearing, the Board still must review some evidence presented to it and make specific findings of fact. In this case, Mr. Bluford did not request a hearing after receipt of his Notice for Opportunity for Hearing.

THEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED that for the reasons outlined in this ORDER, the social work license of Roland Bluford (S-22149) is REVOKED. This ORDER was approved by unanimous vote of the Members of the Social Work Professional Standards Committee who heard this case.

Motion carried by order of the Counselor and Social Worker Board

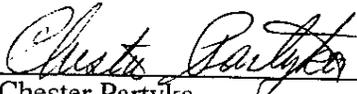
It is hereby certified by this Board that the above language is incorporated into the Board's journal in this matter.

APPEAL RIGHTS

Pursuant to Section 119.12 of the Ohio Revised Code, you may appeal from this Order. Such an appeal may be taken to the court of common pleas in the county in which your place of business is located or to the court in the county in which you reside. If you do not have a place of business in Ohio and are not a resident of Ohio, you may appeal to the Court of Common Pleas in Franklin County, Ohio.

Such an appeal, setting forth the Order appealed from and the grounds of the appeal must be commenced by the filing of a Notice of Appeal with the State of Ohio Counselor and Social Worker Board and the appropriate Court within fifteen (15) days after the mailing of this notice and in accordance with the requirements of Section 119.12 of the Ohio Revised Code.

By Order of the State of Ohio Counselor and Social Worker Board.



Chester Partyka
Chairman