



## ***Counselor, Social Worker & Marriage and Family Therapist Board***

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### **ADJUDICATION ORDER in the Matter of:**

Karen E. Stewart  
17741 McCracken Road  
Maple Heights, OH 44137

IN THE MATTER OF KAREN E. STEWART TO PRACTICE AS A LICENSED SOCIAL WORKER IN THE STATE OF OHIO.

THE MATTER OF KAREN E. STEWART CAME BEFORE THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE SOCIAL WORKER PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE OF THE OHIO COUNSELOR, SOCIAL WORKER, AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST BOARD ON JANUARY 19, 2012: DONALD MCTIGUE, JENNIFER HADDEN, REV. OTHA GILYARD, AND ROBERT NELSON.

### **FINDINGS, ORDER, AND JOURNAL ENTRY**

This matter came for consideration after a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing was issued to Karen E. Stewart by the Social Worker Professional Standards Committee on October 20, 2011.

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, Ms. Stewart 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 the case was presented to the Social Work Professional Standards Committee on January 19, 2012.

### **Summary of Evidence**

#### State's Exhibits

1. Affidavit prepared by Tamara Tingle, Investigator, State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board.

2. Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Ms. Stewart dated October 20, 2011.
3. Complaint received by the Board on January 3, 2011, regarding Ms. Stewart.

### **Conclusions of Law**

Ohio Revised Code Section 4757.36(C)(1) provides that the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board may take disciplinary action against a licensee who has committed a violation of any provision of the Board's law and rules. Ohio Administrative Code Section 4757-5-02(D)(1) states that the Board may discipline a licensee who fails to protect a client's right to confidentiality. Ohio Administrative Code Section 4757-5-03(A) states a license social worker shall avoid multiple relationships and conflicts of interest with any client which are not in the best interest of the client and might impair professional judgment or which increases the risk of client exploitation.

### **Discussion and Findings**

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 evidence presented to it and make specific findings of fact. In this case, Ms. Stewart did not request a hearing after receipt of her Notice for Opportunity for Hearing.

The Social Worker Professional Standards Committee has reviewed the evidence prepared in this case. The Committee finds that Ms. Stewart violated her client's confidentiality and entered into an inappropriate dual relationship with this same client by attempting to change the payee status of her client to Ms. Stewart's brother. Based on this, the Committee orders that Ms. Stewart's license to practice as a social worker (S.0026294) is **REVOKED**. As Ordered by the Social Worker Professional Standards Committee of the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board. This order was approved by a unanimous vote of the Social Worker Professional Standards Committee who reviewed this case. Mr. Nelson recused himself from the vote and discussion.

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

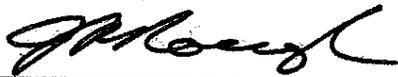
### **APPEAL RIGHTS**

Under the provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 119.12, any party adversely affected by an order of an agency issued pursuant to an adjudication denying an applicant admission to an examination, or denying the issuance or renewal of a license or registration of a license, or revoking or suspending a license, may appeal from the order

of the agency to the court of common pleas of the county in which the place of business of the licensee is located or the county in which the licensee is a resident. If any such party is not a resident of and has no place of business in Ohio, the party may appeal to the court of common pleas of Franklin County

This *Order* may be appealed in accordance with Section 119.12 of the Ohio Revised Code by filing the original Notice of Appeal with the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapy Board, 50 West Broad Street, Suite 1075, Columbus, Ohio 43215, and also a copy of that Notice of Appeal with the Court of Common Pleas in the county of the party's place of business, or in the county in which the party is a resident. The Notice of Appeal shall set forth the Order appealed from and the grounds of the Party's appeal. Such Notice of Appeal and copy shall be filed and must be delivered within fifteen (15) days after the mailing of this *Adjudication Order*.

By Order of the State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board.



James R. Rough  
Executive Director

1-19-12

Date

Certified Mail Receipt #7005 3110 0002 4898 0769