



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

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

Valerie Bass  
1011 Syracuse Lane  
Westerville, OH 43081

IN THE MATTER OF VALERIE BASS TO PRACTICE AS A LICENSED  
INDEPENDENT SOCIAL WORKER IN THE STATE OF OHIO.

THE MATTER OF VALERIE BASS 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 MARCH 16, 2017: ANNA BOMAS, ANDREW BOWERS,  
LISA HABERBUSCH, ERIN MICHEL AND DR. CARL BRUN.

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

This matter came for consideration after a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing was issued to Valerie Bass by the Social Worker Professional Standards Committee on November 18, 2016.

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. Bass did make a timely request for such a hearing, but later canceled her request for a hearing, therefore pursuant to *Goldman v. State Medical Board*, 110 Ohio App.3d 124, 673 N.E.2d 677 (1996) the case was presented to the Social Work Professional Standards Committee on March 16, 2017.

### **Summary of Evidence**

#### **State's Exhibits**

1. Affidavit prepared by William L. Hegarty, Deputy Director, State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board.

2. Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Ms. Bass dated November 18, 2016.
3. Ms. Bass' request for a hearing and then later canceling this request.
4. Order from the Board's Social Work Professional Standards Committee on August 18, 2016, to Ms. Bass in which Ms. Bass was ordered to obtain a mental health and substance abuse examination.

### **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 4757-11-02(C) states that the Board can take disciplinary action against a licensee who fails to submit to a mental examination ordered by a professional standards committee in that the failure to obtain the examination constitutes an admission of the allegation against the licensee.

### **Discussion and Findings**

As required in the case of *Goldman v. State Medical Board*, 110 Ohio App.3d 124, 673 N.E.2d 677 (1996) all cases where a Board issues a Notice for Opportunity for Hearing and the individual chooses not to have a hearing, the Board still must review evidence presented to it and make specific findings of fact. In this case, Valerie Bass canceled her request for 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 Valerie Bass did not comply with the Committee's order for her to obtain a mental health and substance abuse examination, therefor Ms. Bass' actions constitute an admission of the allegation that she may be impaired so that she cannot properly function as an independent social worker in Ohio. The Committee orders that Ms. Bass' license to practice as an independent social worker (I.0005208) is **REVOKED**. As Ordered by the Social Worker Professional Standards Committee of the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board. Ms. Haberbusch recused herself from the discussion and vote of this case.

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

### **APPEAL RIGHTS**

Ohio Revised Code Section 119.12 may authorize an appeal from this Order. Such an appeal must be commenced by the filing of a Notice of Appeal with the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board and in the court of common

pleas of the county in which the licensee is a resident. If the party appealing from the order is not a resident of any County, the party may appeal to the court of common pleas of Franklin County. The Notice of Appeal must set forth the order appealed from and state that the agency's order is not supported by reliable, probative, and substantial evidence and is not in accordance with the law. The Notice of Appeal may, but need not, set forth the specific grounds of the party's appeal beyond the statement that the agency's order is not supported by reliable, probative, and substantial evidence and is not in accordance with law. Both Notices of Appeal must be received at the office of the Board and filed with the applicable court within fifteen (15) days after mailing of this notice of the agency's order, and in accordance with the provisions of Ohio Revised Code Chapter 119.12.

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



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Brian P. Carnahan  
Executive Director

March 16, 2017  
Date

Certified Mail Receipt #7005 1160 0001 0337 8503 and by certificate of mailing – 3/17/17.