



Counselor, Social Worker & Marriage and Family Therapist Board

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ADJUDICATION ORDER in the Matter of:

Brenda Ward-Brown
4360 Galaxy Drive
Stow, OH 44224

IN THE MATTER OF THE ELIGIBILITY OF BRENDA WARD-BROWN TO MAINTAIN LICENSURE AS A PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL COUNSELOR IN THE STATE OF OHIO.

THE MATTER OF BRENDA WARD-BROWN CAME BEFORE THE COUNSELOR PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE OF THE OHIO COUNSELOR, SOCIAL WORKER, AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST BOARD ON NOVEMBER 17, 2006.

This matter came for consideration after a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing was issued to Brenda Ward-Brown by the Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board on July 22, 2005. An administrative hearing was held on January 4, 2006, in the offices of the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board, 50 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215, pursuant to Chapter 119 and Section 4757 of the Ohio Revised Code. This hearing was continued to March 21, 2006, in Akron, Ohio, and again to June 20, 2006, in Akron, Ohio. The State was represented by Assistant Attorney General Peter R. Casey, IV. Ms. Ward-Brown was present and represented by legal counsel, Edward L. Gilbert.

State's Exhibits

1. Notice of Opportunity for Hearing dated July 22, 2005, to Ms. Ward-Brown
2. Letter dated August 10, 2005, to the Board from Mr. Gilbert requesting a hearing on behalf of his client, Brenda Ward-Brown.

- 3A. Letter dated August 12, 2005, from the Board to Mr. Gilbert scheduling an administrative hearing and then continuing said hearing.
- 3B. Letter dated October 31, 2005, from the Board to Mr. Gilbert scheduling an administrative hearing for January 4, 2006.
- 3C. Letter dated January 24, 2006, from the Board to Mr. Gilbert scheduling an administrative hearing for March 21, 2006.
- 4. Copy of the Board's computer licensing screen with regard to Ms. Ward-Brown.
- 5. Memorandum dated November 24, 2003, from Janet Wagner and Amy Lukes to Brenda Ward Brown.
- 6A. Memorandum dated January 16, 2004, from Ms. Ward-Brown to Barbara Van Dike.
- 6B. Memorandum dated January 16, 2004, from Brenda Ward-Brown to Barbara Van Dike.
- 7. Memorandum of Record dated January 28, 2004, concerning a held meeting.
- 8. E-mail dated February 11, 2004 from Amy Lukes to Janet Wagner
- 9. Memorandum dated February 16, 2004, from Jan Wagner to Brenda Ward-Brown
- 10. Memorandum dated March 10, 2004, from Paula Warren to Barbara Van Dike.
- 11. Letter dated March 10, 2004, from Brenda Ward-Brown to Barbara Van Dike.
- 12A. Memorandum dated March 22, 2004, from Brenda Ward-Brown to Barbara Van Dike.
- 12B. Memorandum dated March 23, 2004, from Brenda Ward-Brown to Barbara Van Dike.
- 13A. Letter dated March 31, 2004, from Brenda Ward-Brown to Barbara Van Dike.
- 13B. Letter dated March 31, 2004, from Brenda Ward-Brown to Barbara Van Dike.
- 14. Memorandum dated April 1, 2004, from Theodore Ziegler to Brenda Ward-Brown.
- 15A. Letter dated April 7, 2004, from Barbara Van Dike to Brenda Ward-Brown.
- 15B. Letter dated April 21, 2004, from Barbara Van Dike to Brenda Ward-Brown.

- 15C. Letter dated April 28, 2004, from Brenda Ward-Brown to Barbara Van Dike.
- 15D. Letter dated April 29, 2004, from Brenda Ward-Brown to Barbara Van Dike.
- 15E. Letter dated May 6, 2004, from Barbara Van Dike to Brenda Ward-Brown.
- 15F. Letter dated May 12, 2004, from Brenda Ward-Brown to Barbara Van Dike.
- 17A-17J. Service Activity Logs and Case notes for 10 different clients
- 18. Case notes from November 18, 2003, through November 19, 2003, concerning client Perry W.
- 19. Dismissal and Notice of Rights from the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to Brenda Ward-Brown.
- 20. Memorandum dated May 14, 2004, from Paula Warren to Gina Male.

FINDINGS, ORDER, AND JOURNAL ENTRY

The Counselor Professional Standards Committee has reviewed the Hearing Examiner's Report and Recommendation prepared in this case following the administrative hearing. The transcripts and evidence were made available to the Committee to review. The Committee finds that Ms. Ward-Brown violated Ohio Revised Code Section 4757.36(A)(1) and Ohio Administrative Code Section 4757-5-01(I)(2) with regard to client records. The Committee also finds that Ms. Ward-Brown violated Ohio Revised Code Section 4757.36(A)(1) and Ohio Administrative Code Section 4757-5-01(B)(1)(b) with regard to appropriate standards of care.

The Committee accepts the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law presented in the Hearing Officer Report and Recommendations in their entirety. Based on the facts of this case, the Committee modifies the Recommended Order of the Hearing Officer Report and Recommendations, and Orders the following with regard to Ms. Ward-Brown's license to practice counseling (E-0004086):

1. Ms. Ward-Brown's license to practice counseling is suspended for twelve (12) months beginning December 1, 2006, through November 30, 2007.
2. After Ms. Ward-Brown serves her suspension and returns to work as a counselor, she must receive face-to face supervision, by an individual pre-approved by the Board, one-hour every week for a period of 2 years. Ms. Ward-Brown should not select a supervisor with which she has a prior relationship. If any previous relationship with the supervisor exists, Ms. Ward-Brown must provide full

disclosure of such a relationship in the request for supervisor approval. The 2-year supervision period will not begin until Ms. Ward-Brown's supervisor is approved. Supervision should focus on, but not limited to, Ms. Ward-Brown's role in professional relationships, ethical decision-making, and proper record keeping. Ms. Ward-Brown's supervisor is required to submit a report to the Board, quarterly, detailing topics discussed during supervision sessions, areas of concern, and areas for improvement. At the end of the 2-year supervised period, Ms. Ward-Brown's supervisor will make a final report encompassing the 2 years of supervision. It is Ms. Ward-Brown's responsibility to ensure that the Board receives the supervisor's reports. All costs associated with the supervision are at the expense of Ms. Ward-Brown.

3. Ms. Ward-Brown must take and pass a graduate level counselor ethics course. The course must be taken for credit, part of a counselor program from an accredited university, and pre-approved in writing by the Board's Investigation Unit. The course cannot be distance learning or an "on-line" course. Ms. Ward-Brown must receive a grade of "B" or its equivalent. Once Ms. Ward-Brown successfully completes this course, she must ensure official transcripts are sent directly from the university to the attention of the Investigation Unit at the Board office. The transcript verifying completion is due in the Board office no later than November 30, 2007. The credits earned from the course may not be used toward the thirty (30) hours of continuing education required for license renewal. All costs associated with the course are at the expense of Ms. Ward-Brown.
4. During the two-year period that Ms. Ward-Brown is being supervised as required in paragraph #2 above, she cannot provide either training or work supervision for counselors, social workers, or marriage and family therapists.

This ORDER was approved by unanimous vote of the Members of the Committee who reviewed this case.

Motion carried by order of the Counselor Professional Standards Committee of the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board.


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 Therapist 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

Nov. 20, 2006
Date

Certified Mail Receipt #7001 0360 0002 4138 9268 – Ms. Ward-Brown

Certified Mail Receipt #7001 0360 0002 4138 9275 – Mr. Gilbert