



Counselor, Social Worker & Marriage and Family Therapist Board

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ADJUDICATION ORDER in the Matter of:

Jennifer M. Howell
216 Shafor
Middletown, OH 45044

IN THE MATTER OF THE ELIGIBILITY OF JENNIFER M. HOWELL TO MAINTAIN LICENSURE AS A LICENSED SOCIAL WORKER IN THE STATE OF OHIO.

THE MATTER OF JENNIFER M. HOWELL CAME BEFORE THE SOCIAL WORKER PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE OF THE OHIO COUNSELOR, SOCIAL WORKER, AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST BOARD ON JANUARY 15, 2015.

This matter came for consideration after a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing was issued to Jennifer M. Howell by the Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board on July 29, 2014. An administrative hearing was held on October 9, 2014, 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. The State was represented by Assistant Attorney General Melissa L. Wilburn. Ms. Howell was present and not represented by legal counsel.

State's Exhibits

1. Notice of Opportunity for Hearing dated July 29, 2014, to Jennifer M. Howell
2. Letter dated August 26, 2014, to the Board from Ms. Howell requesting a hearing.
3. Letter dated August 27, 2014, from the Board to Ms. Howell scheduling an administrative hearing and then continuing this hearing.

4. Letter dated September 8, 2014, from the Board to Ms. Howell scheduling an administrative hearing for October 9, 2014.

5. Subpoena document from the Board to Adams Recovery Center

6.0 – 6.6. Documentation provided by Adams Recovery Center in response to the Board subpoena

7. CV of Matthew T. Rupert

8. Letter provided to the Board by Mr. Rupert dated June 13, 2014

Respondent's Exhibits

A. Letters from Jennifer Marquis dated October 8, 2014, Elizabeth Sorrell dated October 6, 2014

B. Letter from Deborah Hater dated October 8, 2014

C. Letter from Ms. Howell's neighbor

D. Hospital bills supplied by Ms. Howell

E. Treatment Plan (sealed)

FINDINGS, ORDER, AND JOURNAL ENTRY

The Social Worker Professional Standards Committee has reviewed the Report and Recommendations provided by the Hearing Officer in the case of Jennifer M. Howell. The Committee accepts the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as written in the Report and Recommendations. The Committee finds that Ms. Howell violated Ohio Revised Code Sections 4757.36(C)(6) since she suffers from an impairment that renders her incapable of professionally functioning as a licensed social worker in the State of Ohio.

Based on the facts of this case, the Committee modifies the recommendations of the Hearing Officer and orders the following with regard to Ms. Howell's license to practice social work (S.1303294):

1. Jennifer Howell's license to practice social work is indefinitely suspended beginning January 16, 2015, for a minimum of three (3) years.
2. After a minimum of three years, Ms. Howell can request a meeting with a representative of the Social Worker Professional Standards Committee to request

having the suspension of her license lifted. Ms. Howell should be able to provide detailed evidence that she is currently clean/sober and has maintained her sobriety. The Committee reserves the right to request additional information before rendering a decision including but not limited to requiring Ms. Howell to obtain a Board pre-approved mental health and/or substance abuse evaluation at her expense to determine her ability to safely and professionally function as a social worker. The final decision to lift the suspension rests with the Committee.

3. Ms. Howell must continue to follow normal renewal procedures during her suspension in order for her to be able to return to practice.

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

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

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.



Brian P. Carnahan, Executive Director

January 16, 2015
Date

Certified Mail Receipt #7005 3110 0002 4891 6683 and by certificate of mailing