

## SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

### I. PARTIES

This settlement agreement is made and entered into by and between the Board of Social Work Examiners (Board) and Rachel Pierson (Pierson).

### II. RECITALS

- A. The Board is authorized pursuant to North Dakota Century Code (N.D.C.C.) ch. 43-41 to license and regulate the profession of social work.
- B. Pierson is licensed to practice social work in North Dakota by the Board.
- C. N.D.C.C. § 43-41-10 authorizes the Board to suspend, revoke, or place on probationary status any license issued by the Board on proof at a hearing that the licensed person has committed an act set forth in the law.
- D. The Board found grounds to support allegations that Pierson violated North Dakota Century Code (N.D.C.C.) § 43-41-03 and North Dakota Administrative Code §§ 75.5-02-06.1-01(9)(b), 75.5-02-06.1-01(9)(c) and 75.5-02-06.1-01(6)(c), and decided to initiate a disciplinary action.
- E. Pierson acknowledges she has been informed and understands she has the right to seek the advice of legal counsel in this matter.
- F. Pierson acknowledges she has been informed and understands she has the right to a hearing and appeal pursuant to N.D.C.C. ch. 43-41 and N.D.C.C. ch. 28-32 prior to any adverse action being taken against her license.


### III. AGREEMENT

The Board and Pierson agree to resolve this matter as follows:

1. Pierson waives her right to an administrative hearing and appeal that are set forth in N.D.C.C. ch. 43-41 and ch. 28-32.
2. Pierson's license is suspended. During suspension Pierson shall:
  - a. Complete twenty (20) continuing education hours on ethics and boundaries, and submit evidence to the Board indicating completion of those credits. All costs associated with the hours shall be borne by Pierson. These credits shall be in addition to continuing education hours required by law.
  - b. Review the laws, rules, and code of ethics related to the practice of social work.
  - c. Provide a written explanation to the Board that sets forth the harm that can be caused by the ethical lapses and boundary violations of the type Pierson engaged in, and explain safeguards she will put in place to help ensure similar transgressions do not occur in the future.
  - d. Comply with all laws and rules related to the practice of social work.
3. The Board will determine if Pierson fulfills the terms of this Agreement. If Pierson fails to fulfill the terms of this Agreement, the Board may take further disciplinary action against her license without a hearing or appeal.
4. There are no covenants, promises, undertakings, or understandings outside this Agreement other than those herein specifically set forth.

5. This Agreement shall be governed by the substantive laws of the State of North Dakota without regard to conflict of law principles.


Dated this 23 day of December, 2019.

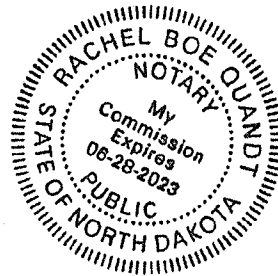
  
Rachel Pierson

State of North Dakota

County of Dickey

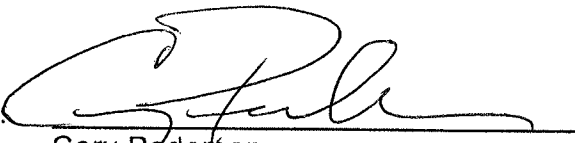
Subscribed and affirmed to before me  
this 23 day of December, 2019.

  
Notary Public



Dated this 13<sup>th</sup> day of Jan, 2020

BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

By   
Cory Pedersen  
Board President