



Wayne Stenehjem
ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE CAPITOL
600 E BOULEVARD AVE DEPT 125
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0040
(701) 328-2210
www.attorneygeneral.nd.gov

RECEIVED AUG 27 2020

August 25, 2020

Ms. Helen D. Keplin
PO Box 1422
Belcourt, ND 58316-1422

RE: *In the matter of the License to Practice Social Work of Helen D. Keplin*

Dear Ms. Keplin:

Enclosed please find an Order issued by the North Dakota Board of Social Work Examiners, through which the Board suspends your license to practice social work in this state.

Sincerely,

David J. Schaibley

David J. Schaibley
Assistant Attorney General
General Counsel
Board of Social Work Examiners

Enclosure

cc: Board of Social Work Examiners

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

In the matter of the License to)
Practice Social Work of:)
)
Helen D. Keplin)
)
)

ORDER

WHEREAS:

1. The North Dakota Board of Social Work Examiners ("Board") is authorized pursuant to North Dakota Century Code (N.D.C.C.) ch. 43-41 to license and regulate the practice of social work.
2. The Board is authorized to suspend, revoke, or otherwise discipline any license issued by the Board on the grounds set forth in N.D.C.C. § 43-41-10.
3. Licensees of the Board are required to complete thirty approved continuing education contact hours, including two (2) hours social work ethics, for each two-year licensing period. N.D.A.C. § 75.5-02-03-07(1).
4. Helen D. Keplin ("Keplin") is a social worker licensed by the Board.
5. Keplin submitted an application to renew her license, which stated in part:

The Board has adopted a continuing education audit system in which licensees will be randomly selected to submit verification of attendance for the required continuing education earned in this two-year licensure period. If you are selected for the audit, you will be notified by letter with instructions on how to complete the audit process.
6. Through the application for renewal Keplin attested that the following statement was true:

I have completed or will have completed the hours of continuing education, including 2 hours of social work ethics, as required by N.D.C.C. 43-41-12 and N.D. Administrative Code 75.5-02-03-07 during the 2018-2019 licensure period. If the NDBSWE concludes that I have not complied with the requirements set forth in NDCC § 43-41-12 and ND Administrative Code 75.5-02-03-07, and the NDBSWE does not grant an extension or waiver under NDCC § 43-41-12, I hereby agree to waive my right to an administrative hearing and appeal pursuant to NDCC ch. 28-32 and agree that the NDBSWE may issue an order taking disciplinary action against my license.

7. Keplin was selected for a continuing education audit, and the Board sought documentation from Keplin confirming that she obtained the required continuing education hours.
8. Keplin did not submit documentation confirming she completed the hours.
9. At its August 11, 2020, the Board reviewed this matter and concluded that Keplin violated N.D.C.C. § 43-41-10(1)(d), § 43-41-12(5), and North Dakota Administrative Code § 75.5-02-03-07(1).
10. At its August 11, 2020, meeting the Board decided to initiate a disciplinary action against Keplin's license.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Keplin's license is suspended.
2. Keplin shall complete the required continuing education hours for the licensing period ending January 31, 2019, and shall submit evidence to the Board indicating completion of those hours. All costs associated with the hours shall be borne by Keplin. These hours shall be in addition to continuing education hours required by law and shall not count toward the current licensing period.

3. The Board will review Keplin's submissions and determine whether Keplin met the terms of this Order. If Keplin fails to fulfill the terms of this Order during the current licensing period, the Board may take further disciplinary action against her license without a hearing or appeal.

Dated this 16 day of August, 2020.

NORTH DAKOTA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
EXAMINERS

By: Bianca Bell
Bianca Bell
President

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

In the matter of the License to
Practice Social Work of:

HELEN D. KEPLIN

**AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE BY
CERTIFIED MAIL**

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA)
) ss
COUNTY OF BURLEIGH)

Vanessa K. Kroshus states under oath as follows:

[¶ 1] I swear and affirm upon penalty of perjury that the statements made in this affidavit are true and correct.

[¶ 2] I am of legal age and on the 25th day of August, 2020, I served an Order upon Helen D. Keplin, by placing a true and correct copy thereof in an envelope addressed as follows:

MS HELEN D. KEPLIN
PO BOX 1422
BELCOURT ND 58316-1422

and depositing the same, with postage prepaid, certified mail 7018 0680 0001 3737 8766, restricted delivery, in the United States mail at Bismarck, North Dakota.

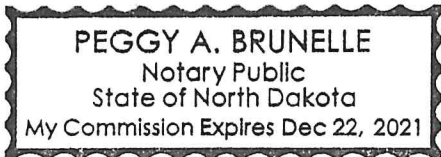
Vanessa K Kroshus

Vanessa K. Kroshus

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 25th day of August, 2020.

Peggy A. Brunelle

NOTARY PUBLIC



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<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Mail Restricted Delivery	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Signature Required	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Signature Restricted Delivery	\$ _____
Postage	\$ _____
Total Postage	\$ _____
Sent To	MS HELEN D. KEPLIN
Street and	PO BOX 1422
City, State,	BELCOURT ND 58316-1422
Postmark Here	AUG 25 2020