

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

In the Matter of the License to)
Practice Social Work of:)
)
Joseph Stark)
_____)
)
North Dakota State Board of)
Social Work Examiners,)
)
Petitioner,)
)
v.)
)
Joseph Stark,)
)
Respondent.)

ORDER

The North Dakota State Board of Social Work Examiners (“Board”) is authorized pursuant to N.D.C.C. ch. 43-41 to license and regulate the profession of social work. N.D.C.C. § 43-41-10 authorizes the Board to suspend, revoke, or place on probationary status any license issued by the Board upon proof at a hearing that the holder of the license has violated the code of ethics adopted by the Board.

Joseph Stark (“Stark”) is the holder of a license to practice social work in the state of North Dakota. The Board determined there were grounds to support a complaint alleging Stark violated N.D. Admin. Code § 75.5-02-06.1-01(5) and § 75.5-02-06.1-04(1) and (2), and decided to initiate a disciplinary action.

On February 11, 2019, the Board and Stark entered into a Settlement Agreement providing:

1. Stark waives his right to an administrative hearing.

2. Stark's North Dakota license to practice social work will be placed on probation for at least one year from the date of execution of this Agreement.

3. As a condition of probation, Stark will comply with all laws and rules related to the practice of social work.


4. A violation of a condition of probation is grounds to take additional disciplinary action against Stark's North Dakota license to practice social work.

Through a letter to the Board dated July 10, 2020, Stark admitted that he "did exaggerate the work that I did on the case to make it appear that I did more work than I did on the case by adding case activity logs to some cases I worked on." At its meeting on August 11, 2020, the Board concluded that his admission confirmed Stark violated N.D. Admin. Code § 75.5-02-06.1-04(3) and § 75.5-02-06.1-04(5)(b), and that a violation of law or rule is a violation of the settlement agreement. The Board passed a motion to revoke Stark's license for a violation of a condition of probation.

IT IS ORDERED that Joseph Stark's license to practice social work is revoked.

Dated this 13 day of August, 2020.

NORTH DAKOTA STATE BOARD
OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

By: 
Bianca Bell
Chairperson