

BEFORE THE  
NORTH CAROLINA SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROFESSIONAL  
PRACTICE BOARD

NORTH CAROLINA SUBSTANCE ABUSE)	)	
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD,	)	
Petitioner	)	
	)	<b>CONSENT ORDER</b>
v.	)	<b>EC No. 315-14</b>
	)	
DINA PAUL a/k/a DINA PAUL	)	
RICHISON,	)	
Respondent	)	

THIS MATTER is before the North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board ("the Board"), pursuant to Chapter 150B of the North Carolina General Statutes; 21 N.C.A.C. 68.0600, and N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-113.-44 and, with the consent of Dina Paul ("Respondent"), Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist (LCAS - 2575), for entry of a Consent Order ("the Order") in lieu of a formal administrative hearing.

Respondent is represented by Crystal S. Carlisle of the Brocker Law Firm P.A., who has discussed this matter with her client and negotiated the proposed informal resolution. The Board was represented by Nelson G. Harris of the Raleigh, North Carolina law firm of Harris & Hilton, P.A.

In connection with Ethics Complaint No. 315-14, the parties have agreed to the resolution provided for herein. More specifically, Respondent has agreed to permanent revocation of her license as a Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist (LCAS) No. 2575), and the Board has agreed to accept her permanent revocation with the findings provided for herein, and to waive any claims that it might have for fees and costs relating to the Ethics Complaint referenced above.

Respondent consents to the terms of this Consent Order, including permanent revocation. Nevertheless, Respondent does not admit, for any purposes or proceedings other than this disciplinary matter and any other disciplinary or licensure proceedings before this Board, the findings of fact contained in this Consent Order. With respect to the findings of fact, Respondent admits that evidence exists from which the findings of fact could be made; and that, while she denies, the material allegations made by the Board, she does not contest, for purposes of this proceeding, the findings of fact contained herein.

Based upon the record herein and with the consent of the parties,

the Board makes the following:

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Petitioner North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board ("the Board"), was established by G.S. 90-113.32, and is recognized as the registering, certifying, and licensing authority for substance abuse professionals described in the Practice Act. The Board was established to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare, to protect the public from being harmed by unqualified persons, to assure the highest degree of professional care and conduct on the part of credentialed substance abuse professionals, to provide for the establishment of standards for the education of credentialed substance abuse professionals, and to ensure the availability of credentialed substance abuse professionals of high quality to persons in need of these services. The Board, under authority granted by the Practice Act regulates Board-credentialed persons offering substance abuse counseling services, substance abuse prevention services, or any other substance abuse services for which the Board may grant registration, certification or licensure.

2. On September 7, 2011, Respondent Dina Paul a/k/a Dina Paul Richison ("Paul") was licensed by the Board as a Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist-A (LCAS - 2725-A). Since December 23, 2013, Paul has been licensed by the Board as a Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist (LCAS - 2575).

3. Paul has been and is been engaged in the practice of substance abuse counseling in and around Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina.

4. The First Commitment evaluation process is legislatively approved process whereby, initially, only Ph.D. psychologists and physician/psychiatrists were permitted to perform First Commitment examinations in connection with individuals who might be in need of psychiatric commitment to a state or other psychiatric facilities.

5. The General Assembly permitted qualified individuals having the Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist ("LCAS") certification, and who passed a test developed by three LCSWs ("the Qualification Test"), to conduct First Commitment evaluations.

6. It is important, given the possibility that individuals could be involuntarily committed, that only qualified individuals be able to carry out the First Commitment work.

7. Prior to February 14, 2012, Paul had a professional relationship with Anne Sherry ("Sherry"), at least to the extent that she had been a staff member, at Appalachian Family Services,

under the supervision of Sherry.

8. On February 14, 2012, Sherry sent an email to Paul, with several attachments, including a copy of the Qualification Test, or what could reasonably be presumed was the Qualification Test, and noted that:

I cannot promise this is the same test, most likely is. Please make sure you to not score 100, you can miss up to 17 questions are (sic) something and no one does well on this test. This is major, major, major hush hush!!!

9. Paul distributed the email from Sherry to other individuals, licensed by the Board, who were intending to take, and did take, the Qualification Test.

10. After receipt of the February 14, 2012 email from Sherry, Paul took and passed the Qualification Test. Paul contends that she did not review the attachments to the email from Sherry, prior to taking the Qualification Test; which assertion the Board believes is not accurate; nevertheless, no finding is made with respect to that disputed issue of fact.

11. Paul did not report to the Board that Sherry had a copy of what a reasonable person would assume was a copy of the Qualification Test, and which was subsequently determined to be the Qualification Test.

12. Paul did not report to the Board that she had received, from Sherry, a copy of what a reasonable person would assume was a copy of the Qualification Test, and which was subsequently determined to be the Qualification Test.

13. Paul distributed the Qualification Test to other individuals licensed by the Board, generally by simply forwarding the February 14, 2012 email from Sherry.

14. The conduct by Paul, described above, is of very grave concern to the Board; involving, as it does, the possibility that Paul was improperly qualified to conduct First Commitment examinations; and that other individuals to whom the Qualification Test was distributed were improperly qualified to conduct First Commitment examinations.

15. The Board and Respondent wish to avoid the time and the costs associated with full litigation of this matter and, in lieu of any further proceedings, enter into this Consent Order.

16. Respondent expressly waives notice of hearing, a hearing,

the making of findings of fact and conclusions of law not contained herein, and all further proceedings before the Board to which Respondent may be entitled by law.

17. Respondent forever releases the State of North Carolina, the Board, and all of its members, officials, agents, representatives and employees, both past and present, in their individual or official capacities from any liability, suits, claims, and causes of action, arising prior to or as a result of execution of this Consent Order.

18. Respondent waives the right to seek judicial review or to otherwise challenge the validity of this Consent Order in any court. Respondent understands and agrees that this Consent Order shall be effective only after approval by the full Board and signature of its Chairperson.

19. This Consent Order contains the entire agreement between the undersigned, there being no agreement of any kind, verbal or otherwise, which varies, alters, or adds to this Consent Order.

20. Respondent agrees to permanent revocation of her license as a Licensed Clinical Additions Specialist (LCAS - 2575) and to any licenses or certifications issued by the Board; and to the FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, and Order provided for herein.

Based upon the foregoing FINDINGS OF FACT, the Board makes the following:

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The conduct described above, which Respondent does not contest solely for purposes of this proceeding and any future licensure actions before this Board, constitutes violations of, among other things, the following:

a. The employment of fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation in obtaining or attempting to obtain licensure, certification, or registration, in violation of N.C.G.S. § 90-113.44(a)(1).

b. Engaging in any act or practice in violation of any of the provisions of this Article or any of the rules adopted pursuant to it, or aiding, abetting, or assisting any other person in such violation, in violation of N.C.G.S. § 90-113.44(a)(6).

c. Engaging in conduct that could result in harm or injury to the public, in violation of N.C.G.S. § 90-113.44(a)(9).

2. Paul is subject to discipline under 21 NCAC 68.0601. Paul is subject to discipline up to and including revocation of her

license as a Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist; and to an order taxing her with the costs of the Board's investigation and action through hearing.

3. Respondent is licensed by the Board, and is subject to the North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Practice Act and the rules promulgated thereunder. The Board has jurisdiction over the person of the Respondent and the subject matter of this proceeding.

WHEREFORE, based upon the foregoing FINDINGS OF FACT and CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, and with the consent of the parties, and pursuant to the authority set forth in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-113.33, it is ORDER as follows:

**ORDER**

1. Respondent's license as a Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist (LCAS - 2575) is permanently revoked.

2. Respondent shall have no liability to the Board with respect to the costs and expenses incurred in connection with investigation of the Ethics Complaint referenced above, or in connection with the previously filed Contested Case.

3. This Order shall be effective as of the date executed by the Board.

This the 11<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2016.

THE NORTH CAROLINA SUBSTANCE ABUSE  
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD

By:



Name:

Seibert M. Wood, Jr.  
Board President

STATEMENT OF CONSENT

I, Dina Paul a/k/a Dina Paul Richison, do hereby certify that I have read the foregoing Consent Order in its entirety and that I do freely and voluntarily permanently surrender my license to practice as a Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist (LCAS License No. 2575); and that, after consultation with counsel, I assent to the terms and conditions set forth therein. I hereby express my understanding that the contents of this Consent Order shall become a part of my record with the Board. I understand that I am permitted to reapply for licensure and certification five (5) years after entry of this Consent Order.

This the 19 day of January, 2016.

  
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Dina Paul a/k/a Dina Paul Richison