

**BEFORE THE
NORTH CAROLINA SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROFESSIONAL
PRACTICE BOARD**

THE NORTH CAROLINA SUBSTANCE)	
ABUSE PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE)	
BOARD,)	
Petitioner)	
)	
v.)	ORDER
)	
BENNETT SLITER,)	EC No. 502-18
Respondent)	
CSAC-R No. 24789)	

THIS CAUSE came on before the North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board (“the Board”), on March 8, 2019, at the Sheraton Imperial, 4700 Emperor Boulevard, Durham, NC 27703, on the Notice Of Hearing dated December 14, 2019.

The Board, having heard the evidence, and having reviewed the record, makes the following **FINDINGS OF FACT:**

- 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.
- On April 25, 2018, Respondent was registered as a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor (CSAC-R No. 24789). [Respondent’s registration as a CSAC was, for lack of required supervision, administratively suspended on October 26, 2018.]
- On September 4, 2018, the Board received an Ethics Complaint (“the Complaint”) alleging, among other things, that Respondent had involved in an inappropriate relationship with a patient; that Respondent’s supervisor counseled concerning the relationship; that a corrective action plan was put into place; that Respondent did not end the relationship; and that Respondent’s supervisor was informed that Respondent intended to pursue the relationship.

4. On or about September 5, 2018, the Board sent a copy of the Complaint to Respondent, demanding response.

5. On October 26, 2018, having received no response, counsel for the Board send a letter to Respondent, demanding that Respondent respond to the Complaint within thirty (30) days, and noting that failure to respond constituted a failure to cooperate with the Board's investigation, in violation of 21 NCAC 68 .0510, and grounds for discipline under 21 NCAC 68 .0601(7)(e).

6. Respondent received the October 26, 2018 letter on October 31, 2018; as evidenced by both a certified mail return receipt bearing Respondent's signature; and a FedEx Overnight Mail Proof of Delivery bearing Respondent's signature.

7. As of December 14, 2018, Respondent made no response to the Complaint.

8. On December 14, 2018, the Board issued a Notice Of Hearing, noticing hearing for 10:30 a.m. on March 8, 2019.

9. On December 15, 2019, the Notice of Hearing was served on Respondent by Overnight Mail Signature Capture.

10. On December 24, 2018, the Notice of Hearing was served on Respondent by Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested.

11. Respondent 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.

12. As of the hearing date, Respondent has continued to fail and refuse to respond to the Complaint; despite demand, notice and opportunity to do so.

**BASED UPON THE FOREGOING FINDINGS OF FACT, THE BOARD
CONCLUDES AS A MATTER OF LAW:**

1. The North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board is a body duly organized under the laws of North Carolina and is the proper party to bring this proceeding under the authority granted it in Chapter 90, Article 5C of the North Carolina General Statutes (the "North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Practice Act") and the corresponding Rules at 21 North Carolina Administrative Code ("NCAC"), Chapter 68.

2. Pursuant to 21 NCAC 68. 0601 and other provisions of the 21 NCAC 68 .0101 *et seq.*, grounds exist to discipline Respondent relating to the facts and circumstances set forth above, up to and including permanent revocation of Respondent's registration as a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor, for Respondent's failure to respond to the Complaint.

3. The appropriate discipline to impose is permanent revocation of Respondent's registration as a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor (CSAC-R No. 24789).

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED as follows:

1. Respondent's certification as a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor (CSAC-R No. 24789) is permanently revoked.

2. This Order is effective upon the date executed by the Board.


NOTICE

To obtain judicial review of this Final Decision, the entity or individual seeking review must file a petition within thirty (30) days after service of a written copy thereof, with the Clerk of the Superior Court of the County where the entity is headquartered or the individual resides.

This the 8th day of March, 2019.

THE NORTH CAROLINA SUBSTANCE ABUSE
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD

By:



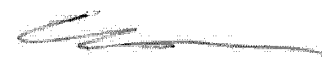
Laura Veach, Board President

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned, being first and duly sworn, deposes and says that he served a copy of the foregoing Order upon Respondent by depositing a copy thereof in the United States mail, first class postage pre-paid, and addressed as follows:

Ms. Bennett Sliter
510 Campen Road, Unit 2C
Beaufort, NC 28516

This the 8th day of March, 2019.



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