

HARRIS & HILTON, P.A.

NELSON G. HARRIS
Nharris@HarrisHiltonLaw.com

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
7320 SIX FORKS ROAD, SUITE 100
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27615

Facsimile: (919) 848-6918

May 19, 2020

**BY EMAIL: vedmunds1958@yahoo.com
AND FIRST CLASS MAIL**

Mr. Vernon Andrew Edmunds, Sr.
1613 16th Street NE
Hickory, NC 28601

**Re: North Carolina Addictions Specialist Professional Practice Board v. Vernon
Andrew Edmunds, Sr.;
OAH File No. 20 SAP 01820**

Dear Mr. Edmunds:

Enclosed please find a duplicate original of the Consent Order entered in connection with the above referenced matter.

Please take the Admonition to heart, and in the future, if you intend to resign a position, please notify your clients of your intent to resign, and make arrangements to ensure the smooth transfer, referral or continuation of services.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

HARRIS & HILTON, P.A.



Nelson G. Harris

NGH:tsm

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Barden Culbreth (by email)

**NORTH CAROLINA
CLEVELAND COUNTY**

**BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA
ADDICTIONS SPECIALIST
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD**

NORTH CAROLINA ADDICTIONS SPECIALIST)
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD,)

Petitioner)

v.)

VERNON ANDREW EDMUNDS, SR.,)
Respondent)

CONSENT ORDER

EC-608-20

THIS MATTER is before a Panel of the Ethics Committee ("the Panel") of the North Carolina Addictions Specialist 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; with the consent of Respondent Vernon Andrew Edmunds, Sr. ("Edmunds"), in lieu of a formal hearing on issues raised in that ethics complaint filed, against him, on March 12, 2020 (EC No. 608-20).

The Board, with the consent of Edmunds, makes the following **FINDINGS OF FACT**:

1. Petitioner North Carolina Addictions Specialist Professional Practice Board, formerly known as "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. Edmunds is a citizen and resident of Cleveland County, North Carolina; and is neither a minor nor an incompetent person.

3. On August 29, 2019, Edmunds was certified as a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor ("CSAC"), CSAC No. 21202. [As of January 1, 2020, by act of the North Carolina General Assembly, the title Certified Substance Abuse Counsel was changed to Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor ("CADC"), and Edmunds is currently CADC No. 21202.]

4. On March 12, 2020, the Board received an Ethics Complaint against Edmunds, which the Board designated, for administrative purposes, as EC File No. 608-20.

5. Edmunds acknowledges that, on March 3, 2020, he resigned his position at Crossroads Treatment Center; without notifying his clients of his intent to resign, and without taking appropriate action to ensure the smooth transfer, referral or continuation of services for his clients, in violation of 21 NCAC 68 .0507(f).

6. Edmunds and the Board agree that the appropriate discipline to impose, in connection with this violation, is ADMONITION.

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

1. The Board has the power and authority to impose discipline on Edmunds, and the resolution contained herein is an appropriate resolution of this case.

2. Each party should bear its own costs incurred in connection with the Board's investigation.

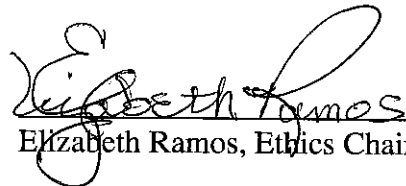
WHEREFORE, based upon the foregoing FINDINGS OF FACT and CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, and with the consent of the parties, pursuant to the authority set forth in N.C.G.S. § 90-113.33, *et seq.*, it is hereby ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Edmunds is hereby ADMONISHED for his failure to notify his clients of his intent to resign, and for his failure to take appropriate action to ensure the smooth transfer, referral or continuation of services for his clients, all in violation of 21 NCAC 68 .0507(f).

Each party shall bear their own costs.

This the 13th day of May, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA ADDICTIONS SPECIALIST
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD

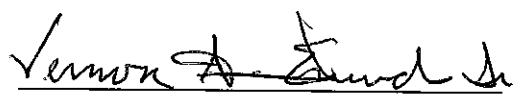
By:


Elizabeth Ramos, Ethics Chair

STATEMENT OF CONSENT

I, Vernon A. Edmunds, Sr., do hereby certify that I have read the foregoing Consent Order in its entirety, that I have consulted with counsel concerning the contents and effect of the same (or have had the opportunity to consult with counsel and have not done so), and that I voluntarily accept that there is a factual basis for the findings of fact set forth herein; and that those findings of fact are legally sufficient to support the findings, conclusions and discipline provided for therein, and that I assent to the terms of the Consent Order. I further express my understanding that the contents of this Consent Order shall become a part of my record with the Board, and are a public record under North Carolina law.

This the 5 day of 9, 2020.



Vernon A. Edmunds, Sr.