

**NORTH CAROLINA
ONslow COUNTY**

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

NORTH CAROLINA ADDICTIONS SPECIALIST)
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD,)
Petitioner)
v.) **CONSENT ORDER**
BRIANE WARD,) **EC-605-20**
Respondent)

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 Briane Ward ("Ward"), in lieu of a formal hearing on issues raised in that ethics complaint filed, against him, on February 13, 2020 (EC No. 605-20).

The Board, with the consent of Ward, 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. Ward is a citizen and resident of Onslow County, North Carolina; and is neither a minor nor an incompetent person.
3. On or about November 27, 2019, Ward submitted an application for certification as a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor ("CADC"); and expressly subjected himself to the ethics rules applicable to CADCs contained in Chapter 68 of the North Carolina Administrative Code.
4. On February 13, 2020, the Board received an Ethics Complaint against Ward, which the Board designated, for administrative purposes, as EC File No. 605-20.
5. In connection with that Ethics Complaint, Ward acknowledges that he has made

inappropriate observations about women, of a sexual nature, in the presence of female clients; that the comments were such as to disturb the clients; and that the comments did disturb the clients. Ward's action in that regard constitute, among other things, the failure to follow the standards of skill and competence possessed and applied by peers acting in the same or similar circumstances, in violation of 21 NCAC 68 .0601(6)(a).

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

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 Ward, 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 Ward is hereby CENSURED for making inappropriate observations about women, of a sexual nature, in the presence of female clients, in violation of 21 NCAC 68 .0601(6)(a).

Each party shall bear their own costs.

This the 3 day of oct, 2020.

SPECIALIST

NORTH CAROLINA ADDICTIONS

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD

By:  - LCSW, LCAS
Michael McGuire, Ethics Chair

STATEMENT OF CONSENT

I, Briane Ward, 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 30 day of SEPT, 2020.



Briane Ward