

**NORTH CAROLINA
GUILFORD COUNTY**

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

NORTH CAROLINA ADDICTIONS SPECIALIST)
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD,)
Petitioner)
v.)
LUANN JOYCE JEFFERSON,)
Respondent)

**CONSENT ORDER -
ADMONITION
EC-639-20**

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 LuAnn Joyce Jefferson ("Jefferson"), in lieu of a formal hearing on issues raised in that ethics complaint filed, against her, on October, 2020 (EC No. 639-20).

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

1. Petitioner North Carolina Addictions Specialist 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. The Board was, until January 1, 2020, known as the North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board.

2. On June 12, 2017, Respondent LuAnn Joyce Jefferson was licensed as a Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist ("LCAS").

3. On October 20, 2020, the Board received an Ethics Complaint ("the Complaint") alleging, among other things, that Jefferson had disclosed confidential client information to a Third Party in violation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act ("HIPAA").

4. Respondent acknowledges that she did intentional disclose client information to a Third Party, in violation of HIPPA; and that her acts are grounds for discipline under 21 NCAC 68 .0601(5)(a) [Violation of federal or state confidentiality statutes].

5. Respondent further acknowledges that disclosure of confidential client information is a failure to follow the standards of skill and competence possession and applied by professional peers, and grounds for discipline exist under 21 NCAC 68 .0601(6)(a).

6. Pursuant to the provisions of the 21 NCAC 68 .0101 *et seq.*, and the provisions of the General Statutes cited above, grounds exist to discipline Respondent relating to the facts and circumstances set forth above, up to and including permanent revocation of her license as a Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist.

7. The Board acknowledges that it has no evidence of a pattern of intentional disclosure of confidential information by Respondent.

8. Respondent and the Board agree that, in light of the circumstances, the appropriate discipline to impose, with respect to the actions admitted above, 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 Respondent, 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 Respondent is ADMONISHED for her disclosure of confidential client information.


The Board hopes that Respondent will take the ADMONITION to heart, and by guiding by it going forward.

Each party shall bear their own costs.

This the 29 day of December, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA ADDICTIONS SPECIALIST
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD

By:


Michael E. McGuire, Ethics Chair

STATEMENT OF CONSENT

I, LuAnn Joyce Jefferson, 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 4th day of December, 2020.


LuAnn Joyce Jefferson