

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

NORTH CAROLINA ADDICTIONS	)	
SPECIALIST PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE)	)	
BOARD,	)	
Petitioner	)	
	)	
v.	)	<b>ORDER</b>
	)	
ALEXANDER WEST,	)	<b>EC No. 633-20</b>
Respondent	)	
CADC-22359	)	

THIS CAUSE came on before North Carolina Addictions Specialist Professional Practice Board (“the Board”) on January 22, 2021, as regularly noticed for hearing pursuant to that Re-Notice Of Hearing dated December 3, 2020. The Board, having reviewed the pleadings and other matters of record, 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.

2. On May 28, 2020, Respondent Alexander J. West was given the status Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC No. 22359).

3. On August 18, 2020, the Board received an Ethics Complaint (“the Complaint”) against Respondent.

4. On August 18, 2020, Michael McGuire, Ethics Committee Chairman, sent a copy of the Complaint to Respondent, demanding response, within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt, to the allegations contained therein.

5. On September 22, 2020, the Board having received no response to the Ethics Complaint, counsel for the Board send a letter to Respondent, demanding that Respondent

respond to the Complaint by October 22, 2020, 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. On October 5, 2020, the Board sent a second letter to Respondent, using a different address, and demanding that Respondent respond to the Ethics Complaint by November 5, 2020. On October 7, 2020, Respondent signed for the FedEx envelope containing the second letter.

7. Respondent made no response to the Complaint.

8. On December 3, 2020, the Board issued a Re-Notice Of Hearing, giving notice that the Board would consider imposing discipline against Respondent for his failure to respond to the Ethics Complaint. The Re-Notice Of Hearing was served on Respondent on December 4, 2020.

9. Respondent still has not responded to the Ethics Complaint, and did not appear at the January 22, 2021 hearing provided for in the Re-Notice Of Hearing.

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

1. Respondent is subject to the North Carolina Addictions Specialist 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.

2. Pursuant to 21 NCAC 68.0601 and other provisions of the 21 NCAC 68.0101 *et seq.*, grounds exist to discipline Respondent for his failure to respond to the Ethics Complaint, up to and including permanent revocation of Respondent's status as a CADC.

3. The appropriate discipline to impose is suspension of Respondent's certification as a CADC, effective the date of entry of this Order, until Respondent responds to the Ethics Complaint, and until a final decision is reached with respect to the same.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED** that Respondent's certification as a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor, ("CADC"), CADC No. 22359, is suspended until Respondent responds to the Ethics Complaint, and until a final decision is reached with respect to the same.

This the 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2021.

  
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Flo Stein, Board Chair