

NORTH CAROLINA

WAYNE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA ADDICTIONS
SPECIALIST PROFESSIONAL
PRACTICE BOARD,

Petitioner

v.

TIFFANY LEANNE FARMER,
Respondent

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA
ADDICTIONS SPECIALIST
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD

CONSENT ORDER
EC No. 637-20

THIS MATTER is before 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 North Carolina General Statutes Section 90-113.44; with the consent of Respondent Tiffany Leanne Farmer ("Respondent" or "Farmer"), in lieu of a formal hearing before the Board on the issues raised against her in that Ethics Complaint filed on October 13, 2020 ("the Ethics Complaint").

The Board, with the Consent of Farmer, 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. Prior to January 1, 2020, the Board was known as "North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board".

2. On August 20, 2019, Respondent Tiffany Leanne Farmer was licensed, by the Board, as a Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist ("LCAS") (LCAS No. 24668). Respondent's license as a LCAS will expire on August 19, 2021, unless renewed.

3. On September 14, 2019, Respondent registered with the Board as a Certified Clinical Supervisor – Intern ("CCS-I") (CCS-I No. 21172). Respondent's status as a CCS-I will expire on September 13, 2022, unless renewed.

4. On October 13, 2020, the Board received an Ethics Complaint (EC No. 637-20) alleging, that Respondent had engaged in a dual relationship with a client of Wilson Professional Services Treatment Center ("the Facility"), where she was employed.

5. In fact, Respondent engaged in a dual relationship with a client of the Facility ("Client X") by permitting the use of her credit card to rent a vehicle; after which Respondent permitted herself to be "blackmailed" by threats from Client X into, among other things, making case payments to Client X and into posting bond for Client X when he was arrested. This poisonous dual relationship continued for an unreasonable amount of time before Respondent finally took action to end it.

6. While the facts and circumstances cause the Board to have some sympathy for Respondent, the prohibitions against dual relationships with clients are intended to prevent, among other negative outcomes, circumstances such as those which developed in this case.

7. The fact that Respondent is in a supervisory position both in terms of her position with the Facility; and by virtue of her licensure as an LCAS and registration as a CCS-I, is additional cause for concern.

8. The foregoing described conduct constitutes, among other things, entry into a dual relationship that impaired professional judgment, in violation of 21 NCAC 68. 0509(b); and failure to follow the standards of skill and competence possessed and applied by professional peers certified in this State acting in the same or similar circumstances, in violation of 21 NCAC 68 .0601(6)(a).

9. 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.

10. 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 Respondent's license as a Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist, and permanent revocation of her registration as a Certified Clinical Supervisor – Intern.

11. The parties agree that the appropriate discipline to impose, with respect to the actions admitted above, is temporary limitation on Respondent's use of her license as a Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist, and permanent revocation of Respondent's registration as a Certified Clinical Supervisor – Intern.

12. Respondent waives any rights that she may have, by statute or otherwise, to judicial review of this Consent Order.

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

1. The Board has the power and authority to impose discipline on Respondent, and the resolution provided for herein is the appropriate resolution of this case.
2. Each party should bear its own costs incurred in connection with the Board's investigation and the Contested Case.

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

1. Respondent's license as a Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist (LCAS No. 24668) is neither suspended or revoked. Nevertheless, for the two (2) year period beginning on the date this Consent Order is entered, Respondent's scope of practice shall be limited to the Twelve Core Functions, and she shall not provide supervision to maintain a professional credential, as otherwise permitted to LCASs under the provisions of N.C.G.S. Section 90-113.31B(4).
2. Respondent's registration as a Certified Clinical Supervisor – Intern (CCS-I No. 21172) is permanently revoked. "Permanent revocation" permits Respondent to re-register at any time after five (5) years after date of entry of this Consent Order.
3. Each party shall bear their own costs.

NORTH CAROLINA ADDICTIONS SPECIALIST
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD

By:

 - LCAS, LSW, LMFT, CCS
Michael McGuire, Ethics Chair

Date:

2/1/21

STATEMENT OF CONSENT

I, Tiffany LeAnne Farmer, 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, 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 20th day of January, 2021.


Tiffany LeAnne Farmer