

**NORTH CAROLINA
CUMBERLAND COUNTY**

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

NORTH CAROLINA ADDICTIONS SPECIALIST)
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD,)

Petitioner)

v.)

KENNETH G. LEPLEY, JR.,)
Respondent)

**CONSENT ORDER
EC-698-21**

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 Kenneth G. Lepley, Jr. ("Lepley"), in lieu of a formal hearing on issues raised in that ethics complaint filed against him, on December 17, 2021 (Ethics Complaint File No. 698-21).

The Board, with the consent of Lepley, 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. Lepley is a citizen and resident of Cumberland County, North Carolina; and is neither a minor nor an incompetent person.

3. On April 6, 2010, Lepley received from the Board the Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist credential (LCAS No. 3341), which will expire on July 1, 2022, if not renewed.

4. On December 17, 2021, the Board received an Ethics Complaint against Lepley, alleging, among other things, that Lepley was impaired while providing substance use disorder counseling services.

5. Lepley denies that he provided substance use disorder counseling services while impaired, but acknowledges that he has recently used prescription drugs and alcohol to the extent that he suffered impairment, and that he has received treatment with respect to the same.

6. Impairment is grounds for discipline under 21 NCAC 68 .0601(6)(c).

7. The parties have agreed, rather than proceed with a Contested Case with respect to the issues raised in the Ethics Complaint, to the resolution contained herein. This Consent Order fully resolves all issues raised in the Ethics Complaint, and any issue raised therein which is not addressed in this Consent Order is dismissed.

8. The parties agree that the appropriate discipline to impose is a two (2) year suspension of Lepley's license as a Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist, with a retroactive effective date of December 15, 2021 ; with the suspension subject to being lifted after thirty (30) days, and before the end of the two (2) year suspension period, if (a) Lepley is assessed by a Board approved substance abuse clinical assessor and has complied with any recommendations made; and (b) Lepley has been assessed by a Board approved assessor and has been found fit to practice. Lepley shall be liable for, and pay, all costs of the assessments and compliance with any recommendations made by the substance abuse clinical assessor.

**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 Lepley, 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 and resolution of this matter.

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 AS FOLLOWS:

1. Lepley's license, as a Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist (LCAS No. 3341), is suspended for a period of two (2) years, *nunc pro tunc* to December 15, 2021.

2. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the suspension of Lepley's license as an LCAS shall be lifted upon the latter of: (a) 30 days after entry of this Consent Order, or (b) Lepley has been assessed by a Board approved substance abuse clinical assessor and complied with any recommendations made; and (c) Lepley has been assessed by a Board approved assessor and been found fit to practice. The Board shall, when and if Lepley provides a copy of the substance abuse clinical assessor's report and evidence of compliance, and when and if Lepley provides a copy of the fitness to practice evaluation, post an appropriate notice in Learning Builder that the suspension has been lifted no later than 15 days after receiving an assessment report in which the assessor concludes Lepley is fit to practice.

3. Each party to this proceeding shall bear their own costs, and the Board shall bear its

own costs of investigation.

This the 4th day of March, 2022.

NORTH CAROLINA ADDICTIONS
SPECIALIST PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE
BOARD

By:

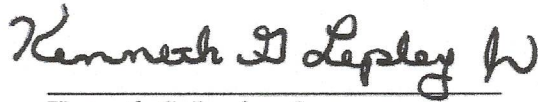

Kendra Davis, Ethics Chair

STATEMENT OF CONSENT

I, Kenneth G. Lepley, Jr., 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.

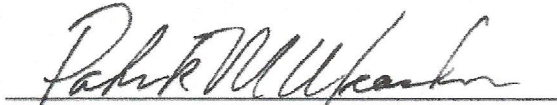
I further express my understanding that the contents of this Consent Order shall become a part of my record with the Board, and are a public record under North Carolina law.

This the ____ day of _____, 2022.



Kenneth G. Lepley, Jr.

WITNESS:


Patrick M. Meacham, Counsel