

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF WAKE

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA
ADDICTIONS SPECIALIST
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD
EC CASE NO. 797-23

NORTH CAROLINA ADDICTIONS)
SPECIALIST PROFESSIONAL)
PRACTICE BOARD,)
Petitioner,)
)
v.)
)
CARRIE ADELINE MITCHELL)
(LCAS No. 22514),)
Respondent.)

**ORDER UPHOLDING
SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

THIS CAUSE came on to be heard before the North Carolina Addictions Specialist Professional Practice Board (the “Board”) to consider an Order for Summary Suspension issued on October 12, 2023, to summarily suspend Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist (“LCAS”), license No. 22514, held by Carrie Adeline Mitchell (hereinafter “Respondent”).

WHEREAS, on October 12, 2023, Board staff issued an Order for Summary Suspension to summarily suspend LCAS license No. 22514 that is held by Respondent. See Board Exhibit 1.

WHEREAS, on October 16, 2023, the Order for Summary Suspension was delivered to the residence of Respondent via FedEx, adult signature required, which scheduled a hearing on the summary suspension for October 27, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. at the office of Board Counsel, 4131 Parklake Avenue, Suite 300, Raleigh, North Carolina 27612. Respondent advised Board counsel that she would not appear at the hearing and did not, in fact, appear at the hearing. See Board Exhibit 2.

WHEREAS, on October 27, 2023, the Board conducted a hearing in which Board staff and Respondent were provided with an opportunity to present testimony, evidence, and arguments regarding whether the summary suspension should remain in place until a hearing can be held on the allegations set forth in the Order for Summary Suspension; and

NOW THEREFORE, the Board, having reviewed the pleadings; considered the testimony and evidence presented by all parties; and considered arguments of counsel, finds, and concludes as follows:

1. Respondent currently holds the certification of Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist (“LCAS”) (LCAS No. 22514). The certification was issued by the Board on February 26, 2019, and will expire on February 25, 2025, if not renewed.

2. On October 11, 2023, the Board received a complaint filed by Barden Culbreth (“Culbreth”), Senior Administrative Director for the Board, alleging Respondent engaged in a personal, sexual relationship with an inmate under Respondent’s clinical care at the Harnett Correctional Institution. The complaint was designated by the Board as Ethics Complaint (“EC”) Case No. 797-23.
3. Information gathered by the Board in support of EC Case No. 797-23 tends to show the following:
 - a. During all times relevant to this matter, Respondent was an employee of the Harnett Correctional Institution, under the North Carolina Department of Safety Adult Prisons Division.
 - b. The Harnett Correctional Institution is a prison facility for male inmates located in Lillington, North Carolina.
 - c. Since October 2017, Respondent has been employed as a therapist in the Sex Offender Accountability and Responsibility (“SOAR”) treatment and rehabilitation program. Respondent provided clinical services to adult male inmates convicted of committing sexual offense(s).
 - d. Client J. D. was an inmate under Respondent’s clinical care.
 - e. Respondent engaged in a sexual, personal relationship with client and inmate J. D.
 - f. On or about September 20, 2023, Respondent was charged with the criminal offense of *SEX ACT – GOV / PRIV INSTITUTION EMPLOYEE* under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-27.31(b), pertaining to sexual activity by a custodian. The corresponding criminal matter is currently pending in Harnett County District Court, file no. 23 CR 416528, with a disposition hearing scheduled for November 28, 2023.
 - g. Respondent was arrested by the Lillington Police Department for the above-referenced criminal offense on September 22, 2023. Respondent’s bond was set at \$20,000.00.
 - h. Respondent resigned from employment at the Harnett Correctional Institution on or about September 22, 2023, following her arrest for the above-referenced criminal charge.
 - i. Respondent failed to notify the Board of the above-referenced criminal charge.
4. The above-referenced pending criminal charge and failure to respond to the Board provides evidence to substantiate the following concerns that create an ongoing risk of potential harm to consumer’s health, safety, and welfare:

- a. Respondent engaged in an act or practice in violation of the provisions of this Article or any of the rules adopted pursuant to it, in violation of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-113.44(a)(6);
 - b. Respondent engaged in the commission of an act of malpractice, gross negligence, or incompetence while serving as a substance use disorder professional, in violation of G.S. § 90-113.44(a)(7);
 - c. Respondent engaged in conduct that could result in harm or injury to the public, in violation of G.S. § 90-113.44(a)(9);
 - d. Respondent entered into a dual relationship that impaired professional judgment and increased the risk of exploitation with a client, in violation of G.S. § 90-113.44(a)(10);
 - e. Respondent failed to avoid a dual relationship that could impair professional judgment or increase the risk of exploitation of a client, in violation of 21 NCAC 68 .0509(b);
 - f. Respondent engaged in sexual activity or sexual contact with a client, in violation of 21 NCAC 68 .0509(c);
 - g. Respondent misused their professional relationship for sexual, financial, or some other personal advantage, in violation of 21 NCAC 68 .0509(d);
 - h. Respondent exploited a relationship with client or person served by entering into a professional relationship in violation of 21 NCAC .0509 and participating in or soliciting sexual activity or sexual contact with a current or former client or client of one's agency in violation of 21 NCAC .0509, in violation of 21 NCAC 68 .0601(4);
 - i. Respondent participated in dishonesty, fraud, misrepresentation, or any other illegal act involving a client or person served, in violation of 21 NCAC 68 .0601(5)(c); and
 - j. Respondent failed to notify the Board within 30 days of the date of issuance of any criminal charges, in violation of 21 NCAC 68 .0606(c).
5. The actions and omissions of Respondent, as described above, warrant emergency action by the Board to protect public safety, health, and welfare.


The Board concludes that evidence at hearing tends to show that significant risk to consumer health, safety, and welfare would occur if the Board's Order for Summary Suspension issued on October 12, 2023, were lifted at this time.

WHEREAS the Board finds the allegations referenced heretofore require emergency action, it is hereby ORDERED, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 150B-3(c), that Respondent's certification as a Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist (LCAS No. 22514) is SUSPENDED SUMMARILY, effective upon service of this Order.

Respondent shall cease and desist from performing those activities, duties, and obligations defined as the practice of alcohol and drug counseling, as defined N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-113.31A, immediately. All existing clients shall be turned over to a LCAS upon service of this Order for Summary Suspension.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Summary Suspension will remain in effect until a final disposition by the Board on the merits of EC Case No. 797-23.

By order of the North Carolina Addictions Specialist Professional Practice Board, this, the 8th day of November, 2023.

By 
Flo Stein-Bolton
Board Chair and Presiding Officer
North Carolina Addictions Specialist
Professional Practice Board

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that the undersigned has this date served the foregoing **Order Upholding Summary Suspension** upon the Respondent by Certified Mail, Adult Signature Required, postage prepaid and addressed as follows:

Carrie A. Mitchell
441 Leland Cypress Lane
Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526

This, the 8th day of November 2023.



Carolyn E. Duhon