

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA
ADDICTIONS SPECIALIST
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD
EC CASE NO. 863-25

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CONSENT ORDER

LINDA CUTTLER
(CADC No. 2427),
Respondent.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Petitioner Board was established by the North Carolina General Assembly to credential and regulate substance use disorder professionals in North Carolina, in accordance with Chapter 90, Article 5C of the North Carolina General Statutes.
2. Respondent currently is a citizen and resident of Wake County, North Carolina; and is neither a minor nor an incompetent person.
3. On July 9, 2009, Respondent was credentialed by the Board as a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (“CADC”) (CADC No. 2427), which expired on December 31, 2024.

4. On January 6, 2025, Barden Culbreth (“Culbreth”), Senior Administrative Director for the Board, filed a formal complaint before the Board alleging Respondent provided falsified documentation in relation to Respondent’s CADC renewal application. The complaint was designated by the Board as Ethics Complaint (“EC”) Case No. 863-25.
5. Upon investigation into EC Case No. 863-25, the Board determined the following:
 - a. On January 1, 2025, Culbreth reviewed Respondent’s CADC renewal application. Upon review, Culbreth identified that several of the certificates Respondent submitted in relation to her renewal application were altered with tape to cover the associated dates.
 - b. The above-referenced certificates were originally issued by the company Collins Learning and the Pennsylvania Department of Health.
 - c. The altered certificates submitted by Respondent were rejected by Board Staff, and the renewal application was returned to Respondent to submit accurate, unaltered certificates.
 - d. Respondent subsequently resubmitted her renewal application with new certificates. Culbreth discovered these new certificates were similarly altered.
 - e. The above-referenced second set of certificates were submitted in photograph form, copied via photocopier, with Respondent’s intent being to make the alterations less noticeable.
6. On January 13, 2025, Respondent submitted a written response to the complaint, including the following statement: “I am so sorry this is happening. To be totally transparent I

panicked. I could not find my certificates and made a bad judgement [sic] decision. I am so sorry for that.”

7. Upon information and belief, Respondent submitted altered certificates in relation to an additional, prior renewal application.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

8. Respondent is subject to the North Carolina Addictions Specialist Professional Practice Act and the rules promulgated pursuant to the Act. The Board has jurisdiction over Respondent and the subject matter of this proceeding.
9. The acts and omissions of Respondent as described above constitute violations of the following:
 - a. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-113.44(a)(1), for the employment of fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation in obtaining or attempting to obtain licensure, certification, or registration or renewal of licensure, certification, or registration;
 - b. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-113.44(a)(6), for engaging in an act or practice in violation of the provisions of this Article or any of the rules adopted pursuant to it;
 - c. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-113.44(a)(7), for the commission of an act of malpractice, gross negligence, or incompetence while serving as a substance use disorder professional, intern, or registrant;
 - d. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-113.44(a)(9), for engaging in conduct that could result in harm or injury to the public;
 - e. 21 NCAC 68 .0503(a), for failing to employ her knowledge, skill and proficiencies within her scope of practice;

- f. 21 NCAC 68 .0503(e), for failing to report known unethical conduct to the Board;
- g. 21 NCAC 68 .0504(a), for claiming or implying educational, experiential, or professional qualifications or affiliations that the substance use disorder professional does not possess;
- h. 21 NCAC 68 .0601(1)(b), for falsely representing material fact to procure or maintain a credential, whether by word or conduct;
- i. 21 NCAC 68 .0601(1)(c), for concealing requested information contained in the application;
- j. 21 NCAC 68 .0601(1)(d), for attempting to file or filing any false or forged diploma, certificate, affidavit, transcript, identification or qualification;
- k. 21 NCAC 68 .0601(2)(a), for knowingly making misleading, deceptive, false, or fraudulent misrepresentations in the practice of the profession;
- l. 21 NCAC 68 .0601(3), for knowingly making misleading, deceptive, false, or fraudulent representations to the Board; and
- m. 21 NCAC 68 .0601(6)(a), for failing to follow the standards of skill and competence possessed and applied by professional peers credentialed in this State acting in the same or similar circumstances.

10. Respondent committed one or more of the violations described above. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-113.33(2), the Board has the authority to deny, suspend, or revoke Respondent's licensure, certification, or registration to practice in this State or reprimand or otherwise discipline Respondent's license, certificate, or registration in North Carolina.

Respondent wishes to resolve this matter by voluntarily surrendering her license and the Board agrees to accept this resignation in lieu of further proceedings related to this matter.

BASED upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and in lieu of further proceedings, Respondent wishes to resolve this matter by consent and agrees that Board staff and counsel may discuss this Consent Order with the Board *ex parte* whether or not the Board accepts this Consent Order as written.

Whereas Respondent acknowledges that she read this entire document and understands it;

Whereas Respondent acknowledges that she enters into this Consent Order freely and voluntarily;

Whereas Respondent acknowledges that she had full and adequate opportunity to confer with legal counsel in connection with this matter;

Whereas Respondent understands that this Consent Order must be presented to the Board for approval; and

Whereas the Board has determined that the public interest is served by resolving this matter as set forth below.

THEREFORE, with the consent of Respondent, it is ORDERED that:

1. Respondent's renewal application for Respondent's Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC No. 2427) credential before the Board shall be granted, contingent upon submission of accurate renewal certificates and completion of continuing education, as follows:
 - a. Respondent shall submit accurate, unaltered renewal application certificates within ten (10) days of the execution of this Consent Order. Upon Board Staff review of

the certificates, if the certificates are approved, Respondent's CADC renewal application shall be granted.

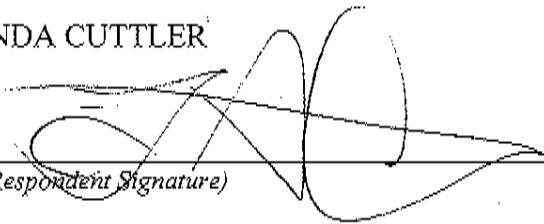
2. The Board shall retain jurisdiction under Article 3A, Chapter 150B for all administrative hearings held in connection with or pursuant to this Consent Order. If the Board receives evidence that Respondent has violated any term of this Consent Order or any other law or rule enforced by the Board, the Board shall schedule a show cause hearing for a determination of the violations. If the Board determines that a violation has occurred, the Board may impose such disciplinary action as it determines is appropriate and is authorized by law.
3. This Consent Order shall take effect immediately upon its execution by the Board and Respondent and reflect the entire agreement between Respondent and the Board, there being no agreement of any kind, verbal or otherwise, which varies, alters, or modifies this Consent Order.
4. No modification or waiver of any provision of this Consent Order shall be effective unless it is in writing, adopted and approved by the Board, and signed by the parties affected.
5. Both the Board and Respondent participated in the drafting of this Consent Order. Any ambiguities herein shall not be construed against either party in any future civil or administrative proceeding.
6. Each party to this proceeding shall bear their own costs, and the Board shall bear its own costs of investigation.
7. Upon its execution by the Board and Respondent, this Consent Order shall become a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the North Carolina General Statutes and shall

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be subject to public inspection and dissemination pursuant to the provisions thereof.

CONSENTED TO BY:

LINDA CUTTLER

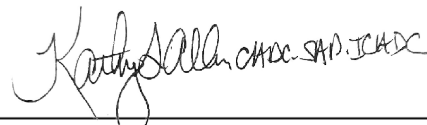

(Respondent Signature)

Date:

4-18-25
(Respondent Signature Date)

By Order of the North Carolina Addictions Specialist Professional Practice Board, this the
21st day of April, 2025.

By:


Kathy Allen, Ethics Chair