

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF WAKE

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA
ADDICTIONS SPECIALIST
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD
EC CASE NO. 898-25

NORTH CAROLINA ADDICTIONS
SPECIALIST PROFESSIONAL
PRACTICE BOARD,

Petitioner,

v.

COURTNEY H. HAMILTON
(LCAS No. 3130, CCS No. 20877),
Respondent.

CONSENT ORDER

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, Article 3A of the North Carolina General Statutes; Chapter 90, Article 5C of the North Carolina General Statutes, the North Carolina Substance Use Disorder Professional Practice Act; and Title 21, Chapter 68 of the North Carolina Administrative Code. The Board, with a quorum present, and Respondent stipulate and agree to the entry of the following Consent Order:

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 Iredell County, North Carolina; and is neither a minor nor an incompetent person.
3. On June 25, 2014, Respondent was credentialed before the Board as a Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist (“LCAS”) (LCAS No. 3130), which will expire on June 24, 2026, if not renewed.

4. On July 23, 2019, Respondent was credentialed before the Board as a Certified Clinical Supervisor (“CCS”) (CCS No. 20877), which will expire on July 22, 2027, if not renewed.
5. On August 18, 2025, Nichole Finger filed a formal ethics complaint before the Board alleging Respondent engaged in a dual relationship that was sexual in nature with a client. The complaint was designated by the Board as Ethics Complaint (“EC”) Case No. 898-25.
6. Upon investigation into EC Case No. 898-25, the Board determined the following:
 - a. During all times relevant to this matter, Respondent was employed at NewPath Counseling and Consulting, PLLC (“NewPath”), a provider located in Mooresville, North Carolina. Respondent rendered clinical services to clients at NewPath pursuant to her LCAS and CCS.
 - b. From on or about Fall of 2023 until on or about January of 2025, Respondent provided individual substance-use-related services to client R. F. at NewPath.
 - c. On or about January 2025, Respondent ceased providing clinical services to client R. F. at NewPath. After Respondent ceased providing clinical services to client R. F., and after the termination of the counseling relationship, but within five years after termination of the counseling relationship, Respondent engaged in a romantic relationship with former client R. F., in violation of 21 NCAC 68 .0509.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

7. Respondent is subject to the North Carolina Addictions Specialist Professional Practice Act and the rules promulgated pursuant to that Act. The Board has jurisdiction over Respondent and the subject matter of this proceeding.

8. The acts and omissions of Respondent as described above constitute violations of the following:

- a. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-113.44(a)(6), for engaging in an act or practice in violation of the provisions of Chapter 90, Article 5C of the North Carolina General Statutes (the North Carolina Substance Use Disorder Professional Practice Act), or any of the rules adopted pursuant to it; and
- b. 21 NCAC 68 .0509(c), for engaging in sexual activity or sexual contact with a former client.

For the purposes of this proceeding only, Respondent is not contesting that she 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.

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 credentials as an LCAS (LCAS No. 3130) and CCS (CCS No. 20877) before the Board are hereby VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED for a period of at least FIVE (5) YEARS. The effective date of the voluntary surrender shall be February 1, 2026; provided, however, that between the execution of this Consent Order and February 1, 2026, Respondent will not accept new clients and, except in exigent circumstances, will not take on any new significant focus or modality of treatment with current clients. Nothing herein prevents Respondent from using her licensure to facilitate transition of care of her current clients, facilitate transition of supervision of her current supervisees, and do what is reasonably necessary to support her clients and other therapists at NewPath prior to February 1, 2026.
2. If Respondent applies for a new credential or registration before the Board in the future, Respondent shall meet with the Board's Ethics Committee at that time for the Board's Ethics Committee to assess her then-current eligibility for licensure by the Board.
3. 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.

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Each party to this proceeding shall bear their own costs, and the Board shall bear its own costs of investigation.
8. 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 be subject to public inspection and dissemination pursuant to the provisions thereof.

CONSENTED TO BY:

COURTNEY H. HAMILTON

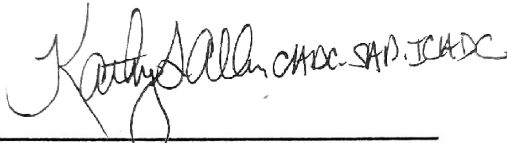

Respondent Signature

Date: 12/17/2025
Respondent Signature Date

By Order of the North Carolina Addictions Specialist Professional Practice Board, this the

27th day of December, 2025.

By:



Kathy Allen, Ethics Chair