

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
KENTUCKY BOARD OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS
CASE NOs. 2020-LPC-00020 and 2020-LPC-00021

KENTUCKY BOARD OF LICENSED
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

PETITIONER

v.

KRISTEN ELIZABETH MEWS,
LPCC, License No. 164569

RESPONDENT

AGREED ORDER

The Kentucky Board of Licensed Professional Counselors (the "Board"), and Kristen Elizabeth Mews, LPCC, number 164569 ("Respondent"), hereby agree as follows:

1. On July 3, 2020, the Board received complaint number 2020-LPC-00020 from Katherine L. Middleton, LCSW-S and owner of Lionheart Trauma Support Services, LLC ("Lionheart") in Lexington, Kentucky. In her complaint, Ms. Middleton stated that she had received a phone call from Abigail Perrott, a former client of Respondent. Ms. Perrott reported to Ms. Middleton that Respondent had used Ms. Perrott's social security number to open several accounts. Ms. Perrott also informed Ms. Middleton that Respondent has a history of driving under the influence, which has resulted in criminal charges in multiple states.

2. On July 6, 2020, the Board received complaint number 2020-LPC-00021 from Ms. Perrott directly. Therein, Ms. Perrott alleges that Respondent had performed counseling services for her in 2011-2012 in Lexington, Kentucky. Ms. Perrott alleges that Respondent obtained Ms. Perrott's social security number while performing counseling services for her, and that Respondent used the social security number to open various accounts in Texas and to take out loans for her new business in San Antonio. Ms. Perrott also included in her complaint that she had discovered

that Respondent had returned to Kentucky and had obtained employment as a licensed professional counselor.

3. Respondent was interviewed as a component of the Board's investigation on January 20, 2021. In that interview, Respondent admitted that she had been convicted of felony DUI in Texas, for which she was sentenced to five (5) years imprisonment in 2014. Respondent stated that she was released on parole from prison. Respondent also stated that in 2017 she was sentenced to a six (6) month recovery program and three (3) months in a halfway house for leaving the state without the permission of her parole officer. She admitted that she returned to prison in 2018 following three diluted drug screens and was released with an ankle monitor device in 2019. She is currently on parole. During the interview, Respondent acknowledged that on her 2016 and 2017 applications she denied she had been convicted of any misdemeanor or felony.

4. The Board has reviewed and investigated the information contained in complaint nos. 2020-LPC-00020 and 2020-LPC-00021 and believes that the evidence obtained during its investigation and review demonstrates a need for additional supervision of Respondent based on Respondent's criminal record.

The Board and Respondent now therefore agree to this Agreed Order, which resolves Complaint Number 2020-LPC-00020 and Complaint Number 2020-LPC-00021 on the following terms and conditions:

5. Respondent shall execute and return a copy of this Agreed Order to the Board within thirty (30) days of receipt of the Agreed Order or it shall be null and void, and the Board may institute further disciplinary action.

6. Respondent's license shall be on probation for the duration of Respondent's probation arising from her criminal convictions. The Board's probationary period shall run

concurrent with Petitioner's parole administered through the Commonwealth of Kentucky Department of Corrections, which is set to end on May 9, 2022.

7. Respondent agrees to provide a full criminal background check on a periodic basis, which are to be conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Respondent shall submit such criminal background checks to the Board every six months from the entry of this Agreed Order, and the background checks shall be completed at Respondent's own expense.

8. Respondent agrees to notify the Board of any arrests, criminal charges, or convictions within seven (7) days of their occurrence.

9. Petitioner agrees to commit no violations of statutes and regulations governing her license to practice as a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor.

10. Respondent understands that by signing this Agreed Order, she has waived any right to a hearing, including the right to be present with counsel, to subpoena witnesses and to confront those against her, and the right to appeal the Board's decision as entered in this Agreed Order and the full panoply of rights of hearing and appeal related to her mandatory certificate and as authorized by statute, regulation, and court decision.

11. Respondent acknowledges that this Agreed Order, after her execution of same, shall be presented to the Board with a recommendation for approval from the Board's Counsel at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board following receipt of the executed agreement. The Agreed Order shall not become effective until it has been approved by the Board and endorsed by the Chair of the Board. Respondent understands the Board is under no obligation to accept or reject this Agreed Order, and hereby waives any right she may have had to challenge, based upon the presentation of this Agreed Order to the Board, the impartiality of the Board to hear an administrative action if this Agreed Order is rejected. If this Agreed Order is rejected by the Board, it shall be regarded as null and void, and of no effect. No statement or term contained in this

Agreed Order will be regarded as evidence in any subsequent disciplinary hearing, nor shall any inference be taken from Respondent's willingness to enter into this Agreed Order.

12. Upon approval of this Agreed Order by the Board, the Board shall dismiss complaint number 2020-LPC-00020 and complaint number 2020-LPC-00021. Any violation by the Respondent of the terms of this agreement shall be grounds for further action by the Board, including but not limited to the reopening of these complaints.

13. Respondent recognizes that if this matter was to proceed to an Administrative Hearing, there may exist sufficient evidence to sustain a disciplinary action against her. Respondent nevertheless desires to settle this matter in an expeditious manner without resorting to an administrative hearing.

14. Respondent acknowledges that at all times she has had the opportunity to obtain legal counsel of her choosing.


15. The Respondent acknowledges, once adopted by the Board, this Agreed Order is considered a public document, available for inspection at any time by any member of the public under the Kentucky Open Records Act. Further, Respondent understands the Board is free to make any use it deems appropriate of the contents of this Agreed Order, which shall include the Board's ability to share the content of this Agreed Order with any governmental or professional board or organization, publication of a summary in the Board's newsletter, reporting under federal law, and availability via the Board's web site.

16. All parties and their undersigned representatives warrant and represent that they have the requisite power and authority to enter into this Agreed Order and to effectuate the purposes herein, and that this Agreed Order shall be legally binding and enforceable against each party in accordance with terms of the Agreed Order.

17. This Agreed Order shall be governed in all respects by the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Any disputes arising under this Agreed Order shall be resolved in the Circuit Court of Franklin County, Kentucky; the parties' consent and agree to the *in personam* jurisdiction of such Court; and

18. This Agreed Order may not be modified except by a written agreement executed by all parties.

HAVE SEEN AND AGREED:



Kristen E. Mews, LPCC, License No. 164569
Respondent

9-27-2021
Date

Andrea Brooks, Chair
Kentucky Board of Licensed
Professional Counselors

Date

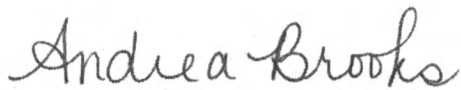
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HAVE SEEN AND AGREED:

Kristen E. Mews, LPCC, License No. 164569
Respondent

Date



Andrea Brooks, Chair
Kentucky Board of Licensed
Professional Counselors

September 30, 2021

Date

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I provided a true and accurate copy of this Agreed Order via email to the

following on 5 of November, 2021:

Kristen Mews



Respondent

Leah Cooper Boggs, General Counsel
Department of Professional Licensing
Office of Legal Services
Public Protection Cabinet
500 Mero Street, 218NC
Frankfort, KY 40601

lboggs@ky.gov

Counsel for Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lyndsay Sipple', written over a horizontal line.

Lyndsay Sipple
Board Administrator