

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK

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IN THE MATTER OF	)	NO. 06-022
	)	
CELIA DUNNINGTON,	)	SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
	)	AND FINAL ORDER
RESPONDENT	)	

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COMES NOW the Iowa Board of Social Work Examiners (Board) and Celia Dunnington (“Respondent”), and pursuant to Iowa Code sections 17A.10 and 272C.3(4), enter into the following Settlement Agreement and Final Order of the contested case currently on file.

1. Respondent is licensed to practice as an independent social worker in the state of Iowa. Respondent was issued license number 304 00862 to practice as a social worker in the state of Iowa on March 25, 1993. Respondent’s license will next expire on December 31, 2008.

2. Respondent’s current address as reported to the Board is 1208 Ginter Avenue, Iowa City, Iowa, 52240.

3. The Board has jurisdiction of the parties and the subject matter.

4. A Notice of Hearing and Statement of Charges was filed against the Respondent on May 14, 2007, and is scheduled for hearing on August 13, 2007.

5. Execution of this Settlement Agreement and Final Order constitutes the resolution of this contested case. Respondent has a right to a hearing on the charges, but waives her right to hearing and all attendant rights, including the right to appeal, by freely and voluntarily agreeing to this Settlement Agreement and Final Order. Once

entered, this Order shall have the force and effect of a disciplinary order entered following contested case hearing.

6. Respondent is freely and voluntarily entering into this Settlement Agreement and Final Order, and she agrees that the State's counsel may present this agreement to the Board.

7. This agreement is subject to approval of the Board. If the Board approves this agreement, it becomes the final disposition of this matter. If the Board fails to approve this agreement, it shall be of no force or effect to either party.

8. This agreement shall be part of the permanent record of Respondent and shall be considered by the Board in determining the nature and severity of any disciplinary action to be imposed in the event of any future violations.

9. This Settlement Agreement and Final Order as well as the Notice of Hearing and Statement of Charges are public records available for inspection and copying in accordance with the requirements of Iowa Code Chapter 22.

10. The Board's approval of this agreement shall constitute a FINAL ORDER of the Board.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

11. Respondent is hereby **CITED** for engaging in unethical conduct in the practice of social work by developing and maintaining a dual relationship with a former client. Respondent is hereby **WARNED** that engaging in unethical conduct in the future may result in future disciplinary action, including suspension or revocation of her license to practice social work in the state of Iowa.

12. Respondent's license shall be placed on **PROBATION** for a period of one year from the date this agreement is executed, subject to the following terms and conditions:

a. Respondent shall attend ten (10) hours of continuing education in the area of ethics within one year from the date this agreement is executed. Such hours shall be in addition to the standard continuing education renewal requirements. Prior to attending the continuing education, the Respondent shall submit the name of the course(s), the course instructors, and the course content to the Board for its approval.

b. Respondent shall, within thirty (30) days of the date of this agreement, submit the name and curriculum vitae of a proposed practice mentor to the Board for its approval. The proposed practice mentor shall be a licensed independent social worker. The approved practice mentor will be provided a copy of the Notice of Hearing and Statement of Charges and this agreement. The Respondent shall meet in a face-to-face setting with the mentor on a quarterly basis during the one year probationary period to review and discuss the Board's administrative rules and issues relative to boundaries, dual relationships, appropriate interactions with clients, and any other relevant ethical issues which arise in Respondent's practice. All costs associated with the practice mentor shall be the responsibility of Respondent. The practice mentor shall submit quarterly reports to the Board which include the following:

- i. The time period covered by the report.
- ii. The dates of meetings held with Respondent and a brief summary of the discussion held at each of these meetings.
- iii. Any other information the practice mentor deems relevant for the

Board's review.

c. Respondent shall obey all federal, state, and local statutes and regulations governing the practice of social work.

d. Respondent shall make a personal appearance before the Board upon request. The Respondent shall be given reasonable notice of the date, time, and place for appearance.

e. The period of probation shall terminate following the one year time period provided that Respondent has fully complied with the terms and conditions for probation set forth in this Settlement Agreement and Final Order.

13. In the event the Respondent violates or fails to comply with any of the terms or provisions of this Settlement Agreement and Final Order, the Board may initiate appropriate action to revoke or suspend the Respondent's license or to impose other licensee discipline as authorized by Iowa Code section 272C.3(2)(a).

**This settlement agreement and final order is approved by the board on August 13, 2007.**