

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
OF THE STATE OF IOWA

IN THE MATTER OF)	NO. 06-046
)	
TERESA J. SMITH,)	NOTICE OF HEARING
)	AND STATEMENT OF CHARGES
RESPONDENT.)	

COMES NOW the Iowa Board of Social Work (Board) and files this Notice of Hearing and Statement of Charges pursuant to Iowa Code sections 17A.12(2), 17A.18(3), and 645 Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) 11.6. Respondent was issued Iowa license 304 00939 on November 9, 1993. Respondent's license to practice independent level social work in Iowa is current and will next expire on December 31, 2008.

Respondent's address as reported to the Board is 725 Wisconsin Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50316.

A. TIME, PLACE AND NATURE OF HEARING

Hearing. A disciplinary contested case hearing shall be held on October 6, 2008, before the Board of Social Work. The hearing shall begin at 12:00 p.m. and shall be located in the Lucas State Office Building, Fifth Floor Board Conference Room 526, Des Moines, Iowa.

Answer. Within twenty (20) days of the date you are served this Notice of Hearing and Statement of Charges you are required by 645 IAC 11.12 to file an Answer. The Answer should specifically admit, deny, or otherwise answer all allegations

contained in sections C and D of this Notice of Hearing and Statement of Charges. Pleadings shall be filed with the Board at the following address: Iowa Board of Social Work, Lucas State Office Building—5th Floor, 321 E. 12th St., Des Moines, Iowa, 50319.

Presiding Officer. The Board shall serve as presiding officer, but the Board may request an Administrative Law Judge make initial rulings on pre-hearing matters, and be present to assist and advise the board at hearing.

Hearing Procedures. The procedural rules governing the conduct of the hearing are found at 641 IAC chapter 11. At hearing, you may appear personally or be represented by legal counsel at your own expense. You will be allowed the opportunity to respond to the charges against you, to produce evidence on your behalf on issues of material fact, cross-examine witnesses present at the hearing, and examine and respond to any documents introduced at hearing. If you need to request an alternative time or date for hearing, you must comply with the requirements of 645 IAC 11.18. The hearing may be open to the public or closed to the public at your discretion.

Pre-hearing Conference. Any party may request a pre-hearing conference to discuss evidentiary issues related to the hearing. The Board's rules regarding pre-hearing conferences are contained at 645 IAC 11.17.

Prosecution. The Office of the Attorney General is responsible for representing the public interest (the State) in this proceeding. Copies of pleadings should be provided to counsel for the State at the following address: Heather Adams, Assistant

Attorney General, Iowa Attorney General's Office, 2nd Floor, Hoover State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

Communications. You may not contact board members in any manner, including by phone, letter, or e-mail, about this Notice of Hearing and Statement of Charges. Board members may only receive information about the case when all parties have notice and an opportunity to participate, such as at the hearing or in pleadings you file with the Board office and serve upon all parties in the case.

B. LEGAL AUTHORITY AND JURISDICTION

Jurisdiction. The Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to Iowa Code Chapters 147, Chapter 154C, and 272C.

Legal Authority. If any of the allegations against you are founded, the Board has authority to take disciplinary action against you under Iowa Code Chapters 17A, 147, 154C, and 272C and 645 IAC Chapter 283.

Default. If you fail to appear at the hearing, the Board may enter a default decision or proceed with the hearing and render a decision in your absence, in accordance with Iowa Code Section 17A.12(3) and 645 IAC 11.21.

C. SECTIONS OF STATUTES AND RULES INVOLVED

Count I

Pursuant to Iowa Administrative Code 645—282.2(8) "a" (1) and (2), Respondent is charged with engaging in dual relationships with clients.

Count II

Pursuant to Iowa Administrative Code 645—282.2(8) "b" (4), and 283.2(29)d, Respondent is charged with taking unfair advantage of her client(s) to further the Respondent's personal, religious, and business interests, and engaging in a professional conflict of interest.

D. FACTUAL CIRCUMSTANCES

1. Respondent entered into a dual relationship with her clients when she accepted gifts, provided gifts, invited clients to her home, discussed personal issues with her clients, discussed work related problems with her clients, and invited clients.

Clients were given a business card with the Respondent's phone number for "Stumbling to the Wall Ministries." As part of the ministries, client(s) were sold VCR tapes, bumper stickers and tee shirts.

E. SETTLEMENT

This matter may be resolved by settlement agreement. The procedural rules governing the Board's settlement process are found at 645 IAC chapter 12. If you are interested in pursuing settlement of this matter, please contact Heather Adams, Assistant Attorney General, at 515/281-3441.

F. PROBABLE CAUSE FINDING

On August 11, 2008, the Iowa Board of Social Work found probable cause to file this Notice of Hearing and Statement of Charges.

This notice of hearing and statement of charges is approved by the board on August 11, 2008.