



### BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

4600 Kietzke Lane — C - 121 Reno, Nevada 89502 (775) 688-2555

October 19, 2007

Lorne J. Malkiewich, Director Legislative Counsel Bureau 401 South Carson Street Carson City, NV 89701-4747

Dear Mr. Malkiewich:

Pursuant NRS 622.100, the Board of Examiners for Social Workers is submitting the required quarterly disciplinary report for the period of July 1, 2007 through September 30, 2007. On June 30, 2007, the Board records reflected thirty three (33) active allegation files. An adjustment was made to the June 30, 2007 figure reported last quarter because the report did not reflect that one of the consent decrees reported covered two allegation files. During the quarter the Board received five (5) new allegations and dismissed one (1) allegation. At the July meeting, the Board approved two consent decrees which resulted in action against Melodie Masterson, LSW and Gerald Earl, LCSW. At the September meeting, the Board approved two additional consent decrees which resulted in action against Philip James, LSW and Michael Gordon, LSW. On September 30, 2007, thirty-three (33) allegation files remained open. Copies of the Consent Decrees are included.

Pursuant to SB 310 which passed in the 2007 legislative session, the following information has been added to this quarterly report.

- 54 New social work licenses were issued
  - 40 Social Workers
  - 14 Clinical Social Workers

During this same period, 38 social work licenses expired and are no longer valid. This included 8 Clinical Social Workers, 27 Social Workers (4 which received a higher level of licensure) and 3 Associates in Social Work. Accordingly, there was a net gain of 16 social work licenses.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

NEVADA BOARD OF EXAMINERS

FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

Rosalind Tuana Executive Director

Enclosures (4)

### Office of the Attorney General 5420 Kietzke Lane, Suite 202 Reno, NV 89511

### BEFORE THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

3 IN THE MATTER OF

MICHAEL GORDEN LSW NO. 4602-S **CASE NO. G07-06** 

Respondent.

### CONSENT DECREE

The State of Nevada Board of Examiners for Social Workers ("BOARD") having jurisdiction over licensee MICHAEL GORDEN ("GORDEN"), pursuant to NRS 641B.020; a self-reported based accusation against said licensee having been received alleging violations of the Nevada statutes and regulations controlling the practice of social work; and the parties being mutually desirous of settling the controversy between them relative to the pending accusation;

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED between the undersigned parties that this matter shall be settled and resolved upon the following terms:

### **VOLUNTARY WAIVER OF RIGHTS**

GORDEN is aware of, understands, and has been advised of the effect of this Consent Decree, which he has carefully read and fully acknowledges. GORDEN has had the opportunity to consult with competent counsel of his choice.

GORDEN has freely and voluntarily entered into this Consent Decree, and he is aware of his rights to contest the charges pending against him. These rights include representation by an attorney at his own expense, the right to file an answer in response to a formal complaint, the right to a public hearing on any charges or allegations formally filed, the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses called to testify against him, the right to present evidence on his own behalf, the right to testify on his own behalf, the right to receive written findings of fact and conclusions of law supporting the decision on the merits of the complaint, and the right to obtain judicial

review of the decision. All of these rights are being voluntarily wai exchange for the BOARD'S acceptance of this Consent Decree.

If the Consent Decree is not accepted by the BOARD, no member of the BOARD will be disqualified from further hearing of this matter, by reason of his or he consideration of the Consent Decree and GORDEN hereby waives any claim of bias of prejudice based upon said consideration by any member of the BOARD in any subsequent disciplinary hearing conducted by the BOARD.

### JURISDICTION

GORDEN acknowledges that the BOARD has jurisdiction over him and the conduct that has precipitated this Consent Decree. GORDEN acknowledges that the BOARD has the legal power and authority to take disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, the revocation of his license to practice social work in Nevada.

GORDEN acknowledges that the BOARD will retain jurisdiction over this matter until all terms and conditions set forth in this Consent Decree have been met to the satisfaction of the BOARD.

### PUBLICATION OF CONSENT DECREE

GORDEN acknowledges that at the time this Consent Decree becomes effective, it also becomes a public document and will be reported to the Disciplinary Action Reporting System (DARS) of the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) or such other national databases as required by law. It is also understood that the meeting in which the BOARD considers and accepts or rejects this Consent Decree is open to the public and that the minutes of the BOARD meeting are a public document, available for inspection by any person so requesting.

### STIPULATED FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

GORDEN understands the nature of the allegations under consideration by the BOARD. He acknowledges that the conduct described below constitutes violations of the Nevada Social Work Practice Act (NRS and NAC 641B). He acknowledges that if this matter were to be taken to a disciplinary hearing before the BOARD, the following

is responsible for setting and maintaining professional boundaries with a client; person	27
11 This conduct also violated NAC 641B.200(6) which states that a licensee	26
personal, religious, political or business interests.	25
whether or not related by blood; or legal representative of the client to further his own	24
not use a relationship with a client; person with significant personal ties to the client,	23
10. This conduct violated NAC 641B.200(5) which states that a licensee shall	22
services as Client A's "Guardian of the Person".	21
9. Since Client A's death, GORDEN has sought reimbursement for his	20
been handling Client A's trust fund	19
8. The court also gave GORDEN instructions to review how the bank had	<del>-</del>
Person".	17
placed. It was during this time the court appointed GORDEN as her "Guardian of the	16
services, including subsequent discharges from other facilities where she had been	15
7. After Client A left the facility, GORDEN continued to provide her with	14
6. n February of 2006, GORDEN left his employment at LTNF.	<b>1</b> 3
assisted in the discharge of Client A.	12
5. As part of his responsibilities as a social worker at the facility, GORDEN	<u></u>
relationship with Client A before she was admitted to the facility.	10
4. Client A had no family in Nevada, and GORDEN did not have a prior	9
Facility ("LTNF") when Client A was admitted to the facility on or about June 5, 2005.	<b>∞</b>
3. GORDEN was employed as a social worker at a Long Term Nursing	7
Person" of an elderly female patient, Client A.	တ
2. It is alleged that GORDEN was recently appointed "Guardian of the	ڻ ن
through the present day.	4
1. GORDEN was licensed as a Social Worker on or about June 4, 2004,	ω
same, he is subject to disciplinary action by the BOARD:	2
allegations could be proven by substantial evidence and that by acknowledging the	_

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Reno,	NV 89	Suite 2 511	202												
15	7	13	12	<u></u>	<del>1</del> 0	9	<b>o</b>	7	တ	Ŋ	4	ယ	N		
influence a client; person with significant personal ties to a client, whether or not related	otherwise provided in subsection 12, a icensee shal not influence or attempt to	15. This conduct also violated NAC 641B.205(11) which states that except as	interests of the client.	service and relationship are no longer required or no longer serve the needs or	shall terminate service to a client and a professional relationship with a client when the	14. This conduct also violated NAC 641B.205(8) which states that a licensee	meet the needs or interests of the client.	interest of the client. A licensee shall collaborate with other colleagues as necessary to	shall seek advice and counsel of colleagues and supervisors whenever it is in the best	13. This conduct also violated NAC 641B.205(7) which states that a licensee	shall practice social work with professional skill and competence.	12. This conduct also violated NAC 641B.205(1) which states that a licensee	representative of the client	with significant personal ties to the client, whether or not related by blood; legal	

- by blood; or legal representative of the client in any manner which could reasonably be termination of the services the time that the client is receiving professional services and for 2 anticipated to result in the license deriving benefits of an unprofessional nature during 6 This conduct also violated NAC 641B.205(13) which states that a years after the licensee ated
- termination of the professional relationship shall not solicit or enter into a dual relationship with a client for at least 2 years after the

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- sha actions or failing to take appropriate actions not cause a client physical, mental or emotional harm by taking direct or indirect This conduct also violated NAC 641B.205(14) which states that a licensee
- pursuant to NRS 641B.400 78 That the foregoing facts constitute grounds for initiating disciplinary action

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1	19. 7	Γhat pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 641B.430(3) and (4):
2		the Board finds the person guilty as charged in the omplaint it may by order:
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4		) Place the person on probation for a specified period runtil further order of the board.
5	b)	Administer to the person a public reprimand
6		Limit the practice of the person to, or by exclusion
7	)) 	f, one or more specified branches of social work.
8	w	) Suspend the license of the person to practice social pork for a specified period or until further order of the poard.
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10		) Revoke the license of the person to practice social ork.
11		Impose a fine of not more than \$5000, which must
12		e deposited with the state treasurer for credit to the tate general fund.
13		Require the person to pay all costs incurred by the
14	De De	oard relating to the discipline of the person.
15	pi	he order of the board may contain other terms, rovisions or conditions, as the board deems proper
16	aı	nd which are not inconsistent with law.
17		STIPULATED ADJUDICATION
18	GORDE	EN stipulates that pursuant to the authority of NRS 641B.430(3),
	1.1	

41B.430(3), the BOARD will suspend his license to practice social work for two years. This suspension will be stayed and GORDEN will be placed on probation for a two-year period. During this probationary period, GORDEN agrees to comply with the following conditions

- GORDEN shall maintain his license number LSW 4602-S during the probationary period delineated in paragraph 3 herein below.
- 2. Within ninety (90) days of the approval and execution of this Consent Decree, GORDEN shall pay the BOARD four hundred dollars (\$400.00) in legal and investigative fees.
- The period of probation shall commence upon execution of this Consent 3. Decree by the presiding member of the BOARD. After the probation has been in effect

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submitted addressed in the report to the Board must include relationship with the GORDEN. Issues to consultant shall GORDEN clinical social worker who will consult with GORDEN. ਰ will write, the Q be **BOARD** GORDEN independent, with no and the regarding sha consultant will sign, meet monthly with GORDEN's be discussed prior business, one During this period of consultation quarterly hour counseling മ 3 **BOARD** the monthly meeting professiona reports approved sessions that 익 personal must be licensed

- $\equiv$ Boundaries and dual relationships
- $\equiv$ Professional responsibilities to clients
- $\equiv$ Use and misuse of power in client relationships; and
- 3 Review of NAC 641B, "Standards of Practice" ₫ Social

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this Consent Decree while the Consent Decree is in force

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- impacted GORDEN and pre-approved by the upon completion, submit a report to GORDEN must attend at least six hours Board 9 the issue of boundaries, the BOARD regarding how the dual relationships, and of continuing education education
- the the psychologist showing that GORDEN is fit to practice social work must be social work. Decree, GORDEN must complete a psychological evaluation showing fitness to practice Board within ninety (90) days of the effective date of the Consent Decree The forensic psychologist must be approved by the Board. A report from forty-five **(45)** days 앜 effective
- period delineated in this section of the Consent Decree only while employed as a Licensed Social Worker in the State of Nevada as GORDEN shall receive credit toward service of his probationary
- provisions of this assessments by the Board for the cost of monitoring his compliance or carrying out the Decree, including the cost of the Board approved consultant and any reasonable financia GORDEN will be financially responsible for all requirements of Consent Decree

## **VIOLATION OF TERMS OF CONSENT DECREE**

revocation of his GORDEN finding of a violation of this Consent Decree, the BOARD may impose any penalty upon GORDEN, convene a hearing for the limited purpose of establishing that he has, GORDEN violation authorized by NRS 641B.430(3), license of the terms of this understands that the BOARD to practice social work in the State of Nevada Consent Decree. and may, (4) including, If such a hearing results upon three but 헍 notice 3 ಠ

potential violation Director so requests, and **GORDEN** agrees BOARD the event that a violation of the terms or a court of competent jurisdiction, whichever last occurs, regarding to surrender his license to the Executive Director, GORDEN agrees refrain from practicing social work until entry of a final order of ਰ waive his right to appeal the substantive legal of the Consent Decree if the Executive

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shall again be operative and in full force and effect shall be which constitute the violation are determined to be not proven, no disciplinary action the event an alleged violation of the Consent Decree is taken to hearing and the facts taken by the BOARD and the suspension previously ordered by the BOARD

basis of the original disciplinary action, which is

the basis for this Consent Decree

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### ACCEPTANCE BY THE **BOARD**

recommendation for approval from the Attorney General's Office at its next meeting This Consent

Decree was

presented and

accepted

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**BOARD** with

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### **COMPLETE CONSENT DECREE**

This Consent Decree embodies the entire agreement between the BOARD and GORDEN. It may not be altered, amended, or modified without the express written consent of the parties.

DATED this \_/5 day of \_ suggest

MICHAEL GORDEN, LSW

DATED this 24 day of Spender

STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

By:

Presiding Officer

The foregoing Consent Decree between MICHAEL GORDEN and the STATE OF NEVADA BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS in Case No. G07-06 is approved as to form and content.

DATED this 17 day of Wester

By:

Attorney Serieral

CATHÉRINE CORTEZ MASTO

Deputy Attorney General 5420 Kietzke Lane, Suite 202 Reno, Nevada 89511 (775) 688-1818

Counsel to the State of Nevada Board of Examiners for Social Workers

### Office of the Attorney General 5420 Kietzke Lane, Suite 202 Reno, NV 89511

### **ORDER**

By a majority vote on the // day of Systemen, 2007, the State of Nevada Board of Examiners for Social Workers approved and adopted the terms and conditions set for the in the attached Consent Decree with MICHAEL GORDEN, LSW.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE.

DATED this 24 day of Solkinbox

RANDY REINOSO, LS Presiding Officer

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### Office of the Attorney General 5420 Kietzke Lane, Suite 202 Reno, NV 89511

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

certify that am an employee of the Office of the Attorney General and that on this 15th day of August, 2007, served a copy of the foregoing CONSENT DECREE, by placing said document in the U.S. Mail, Certified, Return Receipt Requested, first class postage prepaid, addressed to:

Michael Gorden, LSW 4411 Leche Way Reno, Nevada 89502

An Employee of the Office of the Attorney General

### 0 S ω N PHILLIP JAMES LSW NO. 4152-S IN THE MATTER OF Respondent. BEFORE THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF **EXAMINERS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS**

### T DECREE

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The State of Nevada BOARD of Examiners for Social Workers ("BOARD") having

received

5 jurisdiction over

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mutually desirous of settling the control ヾ between them relative

to the pending

that this matter shall be settled and resolved upon the following terms IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED between the undersigned parties

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accusation;

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**VOLUNTARY WAIVER OF RIGHTS** 

the opportunity to consult with ompetent counsel of his choice Consent Decree, which he has carefully read and fully acknowledges. JAMES has had

aware of his rights to contest the charges pending against him JAMES has freely and voluntarily entered into this Consent Decree, These rights include and he is

supporting the decision on the merits of the complaint, and the right to obtain judicial testify against him, the right to present evidence on his own behalf, the right to testify on allegations formally filed, the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses called to response own behalf, the right to receive written findings of fact and conclusions of law ð  $\omega$ formal complaint the right to a public hearing on any charges 익

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12 5 5 7 ဖွ  $\infty$ O S Û N revocation of his license to practice social work in Nevada that has precipitated this Consent Decree. subsequent disciplinary hearing conducted by the BOARD prejudice <u>≤</u>. consideration exchange for the BOARD'S acceptance of this Consent Decree review of the legal power and authority to take disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, the all terms **JAMES** If the disqualified based Consent Decree is not accepted by the BOARD, no member 으 decision. and conditions set forth acknowledges that the BOARD acknowledges the noqu from further hearing Consent Decree said All of these rights that the BOARD has jurisdiction over him and consideration **JURISDICTION** and in this **JAMES** JAMES acknowledges that the BOARD 으 are being this Consent Decree have <u>≦</u>. any hereby waives retain matter, member voluntarily waived by JAMES jurisdiction by reason of the any BOARD claim 으

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satisfaction of the BOARD been met to the over this

### **PUBLICATION OF CONSENT DECREE**

also available for inspection by any person so requesting during which the BOARD considers and accepts or rejects this Consent Decree is open other national databases as required by law. <del>t</del>he becomes public **JAMES** System and that the acknowledges that at the time this Consent Decree മ public (DARS) of the document and minutes Association 으 Ħe <u>≨</u> **BOARD** be 으 It is also understood that any meeting Social Work reported meeting to the Boards (ASWB) becomes effective, it  $\boldsymbol{\omega}$ Disciplinary public document, Action

# STIPULATED FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS OF

this BOARD Nevada Social Work Practice Act (NRS and NAC 641B) matter were **JAMES** He acknowledges understands ਰੋ be taken the that the conduct described below constitutes violations ರ nature Ø disciplinary of the allegations under hearing before He acknowledges that if consideration the BOARD,

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practice social work with professional skill and competence.	10. This conduct violated NAC 641B.205(1) which states that a licensee shall	base his practice upon recognized knowledge relevant to social work.	9 This conduct violated NAC 641B.200(11) which states that a licensee shall	which he is associated.	competency, affiliations and licenses, or those of the institutions and organizations with	not misrepresent, directly or by implication, his own professional qualifications,	8. This conduct violated NAC 641B.200(2) which states that a licensee shall	this letter.	7 TS reported that the agencies were informed that she did not write or sign	packet to obtain social work positions in those states.	and New Mexico where the same letter was submitted as part of JAMES' interview	6. TS further indicated that she had received several calls from both Texas	Personnel interviewer.	did not write the letter of recommendation that JAMES provided to the Department of	5. When TS was contacted by the Personnel Office, she indicated that she	Division of Aging Services.	4 One letter was allegedly written by TS, Elder Right Supervisor for the	interview he provided the interviewer with three (3) letters of reference.	3. JAMES interviewed for a vacant position and in the course of that	of Personnel when applying for a job as a social worker for the State of Nevada.	2. It is alleged that JAMES submitted a forged document to the Department	on January 3, 2007, and has been in effect through the present day.	January 22, 2002 His license lapsed on June 30, 2005 His license was then restored	1 JAMES was originally licensed as a licensed social worker on or about	acknowledging the same, he is subject to disciplinary action by the BOARD:	following allegations could be proven by substantial evidence and that by

- 11 This conduct violated NAC 641B.400(3) which states that a licensee shall not use fraud and deception in . rendering services as a social worker.
- 12. That the foregoing facts constitute grounds for initiating disciplinary action pursuant to NRS 641B.400.
  - 13. That pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 641B.430(3) and (4):

If the Board finds the person guilty as charged in the complaint it may by order:

- a) Place the person on probation for a specified period or until further order of the board.
- b) Administer to the person a public reprimand
- c) Limit the practice of the person to, or by exclusion of, one or more specified branches of social work.
- d) Suspend the license of the person to practice social work for a specified period or until further order of the board.
- e) Revoke the license of the person to practice social work.
- f) Impose a fine of not more than \$5000, which must be deposited with the state treasurer for credit to the state general fund.
- g) Require the person to pay all costs incurred by the board relating to the discipline of the person.

The order of the board may contain other terms, provisions or conditions, as the board deems proper and which are not inconsistent with law.

### STIPULATED ADJUDICATION

JAMES stipulates that pursuant to the authority of NRS 641B.430(3) and (4), the BOARD will administer a public reprimand. Specifically, JAMES agrees to comply with the following conditions:

1 JAMES shall maintain his license number LSW 4152-S during the public reprimand

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- investigative fees Decree, JAMES shall pay the BOARD two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) in legal and N Within forty-five (45) days of the approval and execution 으 the
- approved These continuing education credits cannot be used towards his renewal by the Board **JAMES** must on the topics of ethics, attend at least SIX. fraud and professional hours 으 continuing responsibility
- carrying out the provisions of the Consent Decree Decree, financial including assessments **JAMES** Ħe will be cost of the by the financially responsible for BOARD for the costs BOARD approved of monitoring his compliance consultant and <u>a</u> requirements any reasonable 으 Consent

## VIOLATION OF TERMS OF CONSENT DECREE

of his license to practice social work in the State of Nevada finding of a violation of this been in violation of the terms of this Consent Decree. JAMES, convene a hearing for the limited purpose of establishing that he has, in fact, **JAMES JAMES** authorized by NRS 641B.430(3), and (4) including, but not limited to, revocation understands Consent Decree, the BOARD may impose any penalty upon that the BOARD may, upon If such a thirty (30) hearing results days

₽ the potential violation shall be taken by the BOARD basis of the original disciplinary action, which is Director so requests, and refrain from practicing social work until entry of a final order of **JAMES** event an alleged violation of the Consent Decree is taken to hearing and the facts **BOARD** constitute agrees Ħe 익 event Ø to surrender his license the court of competent jurisdiction, whichever last occurs, **JAMES** that a violation are determined violation agrees to waive of the ಠ terms of the Ħ his right to ಠ the basis for this Consent Decree be not proven, no disciplinary action Executive appeal Consent Director, the substantive Decree ≕; regarding legal

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### Office of the Attorney General 5420 Kietzke Lane, Suite 202 Reno, NV 89511

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### **ACCEPTANCE BY THE BOARD**

This Consent Decree was presented and accepted by the BOARD with a recommendation for approval from the Attorney General's Office at its next meeting

### COMPLETE CONSENT DECREE

This Consent Decree embodies the entire agreement between the BOARD and PHILLIP JAMES. It may not be altered, amended, or modified without the express written consent of the parties.

DATED this 26 day of July , 2007

PHILLIP JAMES LSW

DATED this 24 day of 500

STATE OF NEVADA BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

RANDY REINOSO Presiding Officer

The foregoing Consent Decree between PHILLIP JAMES and the STATE OF NEVADA BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS in Case No. G07-04 is approved as to form and content

DATED this 30 day of

CATHERING CORTEZ MASTO
Attorney General

7.

By "

HENNA KACYRA

Deputy Attorney General 5420 Kietzke Lane, Suite 202

Reno, Nevada 89511

(775) 688-1818

Counsel to the State of Nevada

Board of Examiners for Social Workers

### **ORDER**

By a majority vote on the 14 day of 5007, the State of Nevada Board of Examiners for Social Workers approved and adopted the terms and conditions set forth in the attached Consent Decree with PHILLIP JAMES, LSW.

### IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE.

DATED this 24 day of Soplember, 2007

By:

RANDY REINOSO Presiding Officer

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### Office of the Attorney General S420 Kletzke Lane, Suite 202 Reno, NV 89511

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that I am an employee of the Office of the Attorney General and that on this day of July, 2007, served a copy of the foregoing CONSENT DECREE, by placing said document in the U.S. Mail, Certified Return Receipt Requested, first class postage prepaid, addressed to:

Mr. Phillip James, LSW 2014 420 1/2 N. Turner Street Hobbs, NM 88240

An Employee of the Office of the Attorney General

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pending accusation:

### 1 BEFORE THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF 2 **EXAMINERS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS** 3 IN THE MATTER OF CASE NO. G07-05 **MELODIE MASTERSON** LSW NO. 2898-S 6 Respondent 7 8 CONSENT DECREE 9 10 The State of Nevada Board of Examiners for Social Workers ("BOARD") having 11 jurisdiction over licensee MELODIE MASTERSON ("MASTERSON"), pursuant to NRS |641B.020; an accusation against said licensee having been received alleging violations 13 of the Nevada statutes and regulations controlling the practice of social work; and the

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED between the undersigned parties that this matter shall be settled and resolved upon the following terms:

parties being mutually desirous of settling the controversy between them relative to the

### VOLUNTARY WAIVER OF RIGHTS

MASTERSON is aware of, understands, and has been advised of the effect of this Consent Decree, which she has carefully read and fully acknowledges.

MASTERSON has had the opportunity to consult with competent counsel of her choice.

MASTERSON has freely and voluntarily entered into this Consent Decree, and she is aware of her rights to contest the charges pending against her. These rights include representation by an attorney at her own expense, the right to file an answer in response to a formal complaint, the right to a public hearing on any charges or allegations formally filed, the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses called to testify against her, the right to present evidence on her own behalf, the right to testify on her own behalf, the right to receive written findings of fact and conclusions of law

She				vad	of the Nevad	violations of	
acknowledges that the conduct described below constitutes	t described be	the conduct	ges that	acknowled	She	the BOARD.	
MASTERSON understands the nature of the allegations under consideration by	gations under	re of the alle	the natu	understands	ERSON	MAST	26
	AND CONCLUSIONS OF LA	CONCLUS	ANI	<u>=</u>	STIP		25
			questing.	person so re	by any p	for inspection by any person so requesting	24
		õ		minutes of	d that the	the public and that the minutes of the B	23
is open to	this Consent	ts or rejects t	nd accept	considers a	BOARD	in which the BOARD considers and accepts or rejects this Consent	22
		y law.	required b	ıtabases as ı	ational da	such other national databases as required by law	21
Social Work Boards (ASWB) or	Social Work Bo	of t	of the	tem (DARS)	ting Syst	Action Reporting System (DARS) of the	20
reported to the Disciplinary	be reported to				iso	fective, it also	19
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	ECREE	OF CONSENT DECREE	_	ILIC <u>A</u>			17
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matter until all terms and conditions set forth in this Consent Decree have been met to	າsent Decree h	th in this Cor	ns set for	and condition	ill terms	matter until a	5
				nowled			4
ממש	of her license to practice social work in Nevada	o practice so	r license t	of he		-	<b>1</b> 3
the BOARD has the legal power and authority to take disciplinary action, including, but	isciplinary action	rity to take d	and autho	egal power a	has the k	the BOARD I	12
knowled	MASTERSON acknowled		Consent	pitated this	has pred	conduct that has precipitated this Consent Decree	
			₽	Č	MASTERSON	MAST	10
		SDICTION	<u> </u>				9
	D	by the BOAR	nducted l	ry hearing co	lisciplina	subsequent disciplinary hearing conducted by the BOARD	œ
ber of the BOARD in any		ration by any		ed upon saic	dice base	bias or prejudice based upon said	7
consideration of the Consent Decree and MASTERSON hereby waives any claim of	N hereby waiv	MASTERSO	cree and	Consent De	of the	consideration	တ
n of his or her	be disqualified from further hearing of this matter, by reason of his	of this mat	hearing	rom further	ualified 1	wil be disqu	Çī
<u>c</u>	If the Consent Decree is not accepted by the BOARD, no memb	d by the BOA	t accepte	Decree is no	Consent	If the (	4
	nt Decree	f this Conser	eptance o	DARD'S acc	for the Bo	in exchange for the BOARD'S acceptance of this Consent Decree	ω
review of the decision. All of these rights are being voluntarily waived by MASTERSON	ntarily waived b	e being volu	e rights ar	. All of these	decision	review of the	Ν
of the complaint, and the right to obtain judicia	and the right t	e complaint,	of th		Ō	supporting the	-

until January 31, 2007.	27
7. No response to the letter of agreement was received in the Board office	26
disciplinary action	25
MASTERSON was also advised that failure to meet the requirements could result in	24
she was required to complete in order to continue her rehabilitation efforts	23
sent to MASTERSON on December 22, 2006, outlining the minimum requirements that	22
6 As a result of the December 7, 2006 meeting, a letter of agreement was	21
that she had already begun	20
this meeting MASTERSON agreed to continue to participate in the rehabilitation efforts	19
Social Workers to discuss the issues set forth in the November 21, 2006 letter. During	<b>-1</b>
Sandra Lowery, LCSW and the Executive Director to the BOARD of Examiners for	17
5. On or about December 7, 2006, MASTERSON met with Board member	16
Services (BHS)	15
counselor for the state and had entered into a drug program at Behavioral Health	4
4 At the time of said letter, MASTERSON was also seeing the EAP	13
been a habitual marijuana smoker most of her adult life.	12
her employer at the time of the drug test, MASTERSON acknowledged that she had	1
3 In the November 21, 2006 letter to the BOARD and in her statements to	10
do whatever was necessary to ensure that she would be drug free	9
Family Services ("DCFS") for testing positive for marijuana and that she was willing to	<b>o</b>
she had been placed on administrative leave from her job with the Division of Child and	7
2 On November 21, 2006, MASTERSON notified the Board, via letter, that	თ
31, 2000, through April 30, 2007	ഗ
1 MASTERSON was licensed as a licensed social worker on or about May	4
acknowledging the same, she is subject to disciplinary action by the BOARD	ω
BOARD, the following allegations could be proven by substantial evidence and that by	2
acknowledges that if this matter were to be taken to a disciplinary hearing before the	

pursuant to NRS 641B.400.	27
17 That the foregoing facts constitute grounds for initiating disciplinary action	26
substance which impairs the ability to practice social work is found	25
initiating disciplinary action exists where habitual use of alcohol or any controlled	24
16. This conduct violated NRS 641B.400(7) which states that grounds for	23
641B.220, is found.	22
initiating disciplinary action exists where unprofessional conduct, as defined by NAC	21
15. This conduct violated NRS 641B.400(1) which states that grounds for	20
or failing to take appropriate actions	19
not cause a client physical, mental or emotional harm by taking direct or indirect actions	18
14 This conduct violated NAC 641B.205(14) which states that a licensee shall	17
practice social work with professional skill and competence	16
13 This conduct violated NAC 641B.205(1) which states that a licensee shall	15
work.	4
comply with any state or federal law or regulation that is relevant to the practice of social	13
social work that are set forth in this chapter and chapter 641B of NRS. A licensee shall	12
comply with all the provisions of the statutes and regulations governing the practice of	=======================================
12 This conduct violated NAC 641B.200(18) which states that a licensee shall	<b>5</b>
base his practice upon recognized knowledge relevant to social work	9
11. This conduct violated NAC 641B.200(11) which states that a licensee shall	00
impaired by alcohol, drugs, or any other chemical	7
that a licensee shall not engage in the practice of social work while the licensee is	G.
10 This conduct violated NAC 641B.200(4)(a) which states in pertinent part	ڻ ن
contact with the state EAP counselor.	4
9. Since on or about December 23, 2006, MASTERSON had little or no	ω
outpatient program at BHS.	N
8 On or about December 15, 2006, MASTERSON stopped attending the	<b></b>

1	18	That pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 641B.430, which states
2	in pertinent p	part
3		If the Board finds the person guilty as charged in the complaint it may by order:
5		a) Place the person on probation for a specified period or until further order of the board.
6		b) Administer to the person a public reprimand
7 8		c) Limit the practice of the person to, or by exclusion of, one or more specified branches of social work.
9		d) Suspend the license of the person to practice social work for a specified period or until further order of the board.
11		e) Revoke the license of the person to practice social work.
12		f) Impose a fine of not more than \$5000, which must
13		be deposited with the state treasurer for credit to the state general fund.
14 15		g) Require the person to pay all costs incurred by the BOARD relating to the discipline of the person.
16 17		The order of the BOARD may contain other terms, provisions or conditions, as the BOARD deems proper and which are not inconsistent with law.
18		STIPULATED ADJUDICATION
19	MAST	TERSON stipulates that pursuant to the authority of NRS 641B.430, NRS
20	622.330 and	I NRS 622A.300, the BOARD will revoke MASTERSON's license to practice
21	social work	and she agrees to voluntary surrender her license to the BOARD. The
22	revocation s	shall commence upon execution of this Consent Decree by the presiding
23	member of	the BOARD. Upon the surrender of the license, MASTERSON agrees to
24	comply with	the following conditions
25	1	Within forty-five (45) days of the approval and execution of this Consent
26	Decree, MA	STERSON shall pay \$500.00 in legal and investigative fees. If needed,
27	MASTERSO	N may contact the Board within 14 days to set up a payment plan for this
28	amount.	

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16	15	4	13	12	<b>=</b>	10	ဖ	<b>œ</b>	7	တ	CJI	4	ω	N	_
release all information to the Board MASTERSON shall comply with the	MASTERSON shall execute a Release of Information authorizing the evaluator to	judgment and ability to function safely and competently as a social worker.	approved forensic psychiatrist or forensic psychologist regarding MASTERSON's	b Provide a written evaluation to the BOARD from a BOARD	and pay any and all application and licensure fees	taking and successfully passing any and a examinations required of new applicants,	limited, to filing an application for reinstatement on a form prescribed by the BOARD,	a Meet all current requirements for licensure including, but not	licensure, she agrees to:	MASTERSON's application for reinstatement. If MASTERSON re-applies for	be deemed admitted for the purpose of making a determination of approval or denial of	MASTERSON understands that all of the charges contained in this consent degree shal	year time period, MASTERSON may apply for re-instatement to the BOARD.	the presiding member of the BOARD After the revocation has been in effect for a one-	2 The revocation shall commence upon execution of this Consent Decree by

from a Board approved drug and alcohol evaluator. This evaluator may be the same treatment relevant to the listed violations as well MASTERSON shall execute a Release of recovery and her ability to practice safely. MASTERSON understands and agrees that recommendations of the evaluator Board BOARD may request an independent evaluation of her current status in recovery approved forensic psychiatrist or forensic psychologist referenced nformation Provide proof satisfactory to ಠ ≓e Board information authorizing the evaluator to MASTERSON as MASTERSON's current status the BOARD of her rehabilitation shal comply with above 9

restricted license. The restrictions may include, but are not limited to, limits on practice After review of the evaluator's reports, the Board may issue

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recommendations of the evaluator

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drug and alcohol evaluators.	license and any recommendations of the forensic psychiatrist, forensic psychologist, or	b MASTERSON shall continue to comply with limitations on her	until such time as the BOARD conducts a hearing into the alleged violation	MASTERSON agrees to immediately surrender her social work license to the BOARD	alcohol and/or drug screens show a positive result for either alcohol and/or drugs,	drug screenings for up to two (2) years at the discretion of the BOARD. If any of these	a MASTERSON shall submit to mandatory random alcohol and/or	terms and conditions	upon her license to practice social work in the State of Nevada subject to the following	authority of NRS 641B.430, the BOARD may impose a two (2) year period of probation	3 If her license is reinstated, MASTERSON stipulates that pursuant to the	borne by MASTERSON	rehabilitation or monitoring programs. Any cost related to the restricted license shall be	rehabilitation programs or groups, psychotherapy, counseling, or other appropriate	and work setting use of worksite monitors, participation in chemical dependency	

MASTERSON shall provide a copy of the consent decree to each

term or condition of probation which will affect her

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employment.

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any

restriction on her license or

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full explanation of the circumstances surrounding it

MASTERSON

shall notify all

current and

potential employers of

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employment, consulting or volunteering

23

seventy-two (72)

hours after any change in social work employment, including self-

Any notification of termination shall contain a

required to notify the BOARD in writing within

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MASTERSON is

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two (72) hours

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this

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company policies or contracts and orders of the BOARD, which are not inconsistent with

MASTERSON shall obey all federal, state and local laws, insurance

violations shall be reported by MASTERSON to the BOARD in writing within seventy-

Consent Decree, pertaining to the practice of social work in this

State

Any and all

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employer during the length of probation. Such notification shall be signed by each employer. MASTERSON shall submit, upon request by the BOARD or its designee, satisfactory evidence of compliance with this term of probation. MASTERSON will be financially responsible for all requirements of f. the Consent Decree, including the costs of any evaluations required by the Board or any other requirement imposed by the Board due to any restriction of her license, and any reasonable financial assessments imposed by the BOARD for the costs of monitoring her compliances or carrying out the provisions of the Consent Decree. After the probation has been in effect for a two-year time period, q. MASTERSON may apply for relief from probation to the BOARD. Upon application for relief from probation, MASTERSON agrees to meet with the President of the BOARD or 12 his/her designee, the Executive Director and BOARD counsel and prove compliance 13 with the Consent Decree. 14 ACCEPTANCE BY THE BOARD This Consent Decree was presented and accepted by the BOARD with a 15 recommendation for approval from the Attorney General's Office at its next meeting 16 17 . . . . 18 . . . . 19 100,000,000 20 . . . . 21 . . . . 22 114.1 23 .... 24 25 . . . . 26 . . . . . . . . 28

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### 1 **COMPLETE CONSENT DECREE** 2 This Consent Decree embodies the entire agreement between the BOARD and MASTERSON It may not be altered, amended, or modified without the express written consent of the parties. 4 DATED this day of line, 2007. 5 6 7 8 9 DATED this 25 day of J/(y 10 11 STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS 12 FOR SOCIAL WORKERS 13 14 By: 15 **Presiding Officer** 16 17 The foregoing Consent Decree between MELODIE MASTERSON and the 18 STATE OF NEVADA BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS in Case No. 19 G07-05 is approved as to form and content. DATED this 7 day of JUNE, 2007. 20 21 22 CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO Attorney General 23 24 25 **Deputy Attorney General** 5420 Kietzke Lane, Suite 202 26 Reno, Nevada 89511 27 (775) 688-1818 Counsel to the State of Nevada Board

of Examiners for Social Workers

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** I certify that I am an employee of the Office of the Attorney General and that on this 11th day of May, 2007, served a copy of the foregoing CONSENT DECREE, by placing said document in the U.S. Mail, Certified, Return Receipt Requested, first class postage prepaid, addressed to: **Melodie Masterson** P.O. Box 278 Carson City, Nevada 89702 Article No. 7007 0220 0002 9447 1009 Employee of the Office of the Attorney General

### BEFORE THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

IN THE MATTER OF	)
GERALD EARL LCSW NO. 01219-C	)
Respondent.	

**CASE NO. G05-02** 

### **CONSENT DECREE**

The State of Nevada Board of Examiners for Social Workers ("BOARD") having jurisdiction over licensee GERALD EARL ("EARL"), pursuant to NRS 641B.020; accusations against said licensee having been received alleging violations of the Nevada statutes and regulations controlling the practice of social work; and the parties being mutually desirous of settling the controversy between them relative to the pending accusation

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED between the undersigned parties that this matter shall be settled and resolved upon the following terms:

### **VOLUNTARY WAIVER OF RIGHTS**

EARL is aware of, understands, and has been advised of the effect of this Consent Decree, which he has carefully read and fully acknowledges EARL has had the opportunity to consult with competent counsel of his choice.

EARL has freely and voluntarily entered into this Consent Decree, and he is aware of his rights to contest the charges pending against him. These rights include representation by an attorney at his own expense, the right to file an answer in response to a formal complaint, the right to a public hearing on any charges or allegations formally filed, the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses called to testify against him, the right to present evidence on his own behalf, the right to testify on his own behalf, the right to receive written findings of fact and conclusions of law

supporting the decision on the merits of the complaint, and the right to obtain judicial review of the decision. All of these rights are being voluntarily waived by EARL in exchange for the BOARD'S acceptance of this Consent Decree.  If the Consent Decree is not accepted by the BOARD, no member of this or her hearing of this matter, by reason of his or her
If the Consent Decree is not accepted by the BOARD, no member of the BOARD will be disqualified from further hearing of this matter, by reason of his or her
consideration of the Consent Decree and EARL hereby waives any
prejudice based upon said consideration by any member of the
subsequent disciplinary hearing conducted by the BOARD
that has precipitated this Consent Decree. EARL acknowledges that
the legal power and authority to take disciplinary action, including, but
revocation of his license to practice social work in Nevada

satisfaction of the BOARD. net to the natter until

## PUBLICATION OF CONSENT DECREE

which the BOARD considers and accepts or rejects this Consent Decree also public and that the minutes of the BOARD meeting are a public document, available for Reporting System (DARS) of the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) or such nspection by any person so requesting becomes a public document and will be reported to the Disciplinary Action national databases as required by law. EARL acknowledges that at the time this Consent Decree becomes effective, It is also understood that the meeting in is open to

# STIPULATED FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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the Nevada Social Work Practice Act (NRS and NAC 641B) He acknowledges that if BOARD EARL understands He acknowledges that the conduct described below constitutes violations of the nature of the allegations under consideration by the

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1	7	This conduct also violates NAC 641B.200(11) which provides that a
2	licensee sha	Il base his practice upon recognized knowledge relevant to social work.
3	8.	This conduct also violates NAC 641B.200(17) which provides that a
4	licensee sha	all comply with all the provisions of the statutes and regulations governing
5	the practice	of social work that are set forth in this chapter and chapter 641B of NRS A
6	licensee sha	all comply with any state or federal law or regulation that is relevant to the
7	practice of se	ocial work
8	9	This conduct also violates NAC 641B.205(1) which provides that a
9	licensee sha	Il serve clients with professional skill and competence.
10	10	That pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 641B.430(3) and (4):
11		If the Board finds the person guilty as charged in the
12		complaint it may by order:
13		<ul> <li>a) Place the person on probation for a specified period or until further order of the board.</li> </ul>
14		b) Administer to the person a public reprimand.
15		c) Limit the practice of the person to, or by exclusion of, one or more specified branches of social work.
16		d) Suspend the license of the person to practice
17 18		social work for a specified period or until further order of the board.
19		e) Revoke the license of the person to practice social
		work.
20		f) Impose a fine of not more than \$5000, which must be deposited with the state treasurer for credit to the
21		state general fund.
22		g) Require the person to pay all costs incurred by the board relating to the discipline of the person.
23		
24		The order of the board may contain other terms, provisions or conditions, as the board deems proper
25		and which are not inconsistent with law.
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## STIPULATED ADJUDICATION

term of probation, EARL agrees to comply with the following conditions his license number 01219-C shall be placed on probation for one (1) year EARL stipulates that pursuant to the authority of NRS 641B.430(3) and (4), that During the

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- investigative fees Decree, EARL Within forty-five (45) days of the approval and execution of shall pay seven hundred and Ħ dollars (\$750.00) ∌. this legal Consent
- monthly meeting and addressed in the report to the Board must include EARL will write, and the supervisor will sign quarterly reports that must be submitted to worker who will consult with EARL for six (6) months. BOARD regarding EARL's counseling sessions Ņ **EARL** meets monthly with ø **BOARD** approved licensed During this period of consultation, Issues to be discussed clinical in the
- (a) Boundaries and dual relationships
- **(3)** Review of judgment skills and decision-making abilities
- 0 Professional responsibilities to clients and colleagues; and
- 3 The obligations and risks associated with the provisions 잌 social
- (72) hours violations shall be reported by ANDERSON to the BOARD in writing within seventy-two Consent Decree, pertaining to policies or contracts and orders of the BOARD, which are not inconsistent with this EARL shall obey the practice of social work in this all federal, state and local laws, State insurance Any and all company
- hours explanation of the circumstances surrounding it consulting 4 after or volunteering any change ឆ required to notify the BOARD ∍. social work employment, Any notification 으 in writing within seventy-two termination shall contain including self-employment മ
- employed as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the State of Nevada Ç EARL shall receive credit toward service of his probation period only while

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work services

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violation of this Consent Decree, the SOAKD may impose any penalty	20
convene a hearing litted p establishing that t	24
EARL understands that the BOARD may, upon three days notice to EARL,	23
VIOLATION OF TERMS OF CONSENT DECREE	22
	21
their recommendation termination of probation, reinstatement, or additional	20
and BOARD counsel for evaluation of his compliance with the Consent Decree	19
shall meet with the P , the E Di	18
termination of his probation and full reinstatement of his license number 01219-C. He	17
10 rue, a minimum of one (1) year, EARL may apply to the BO	16
ionsent D	5
Board for the Cost of monitoring his compli:	4
this Consent Decree, including the cost of any reasonable financial assessments by the	<b>ಪ</b>
EARL that he will be financially respon	12
practice prior to on his license to work.	<b>ユ</b>
8. EARL must provide evid satisfaction	70
	9
to the BOARD regarding how the education	<b>∞</b>
ndaries, dual relationships, and ethics, and upon	7
cation	တ
its designee, satisfactory	<b>5</b>
shall be signed by each employer. EARL shall submit, upon reques	4
the consent decree to each employer during the e.y. Such notification	ω
condition of probation which will affect his employmer	N
6 ence otential employers of any term or	<b>-</b>

license to practice social work in the State of Nevada

	In the event that a violation of the terms of the Consent Decree is alleged, EARL	ee is alleged, EARL
0	2 agrees to surrender his license to the Executive Director, if the E	
ω	3 requests, and refrain from practi social work until entry of a	a final order of the
4	4 BOARD or a court of competent jurisdiction, whichever last occur,,	
S	5 violation rees to waive his right to appeal the s	
တ	6 original disciplinary action, which is the basis for this Consent D	In the event an
7	7	
œ	constitute the violation a	no disciplinary action shall be
9	9 taken by the BOARD and the suspension previously ordered by the BOARD shall again	BOARD shall again
0	0 be ope	
<b>N</b>	2 This Consent Decree presen Decree D	<u>า</u> ฌ
ယ	3 for approval from the At General's O ice at the next regularly scheduled meeting	y scheduled meeting
4	4 of the BOARD. EARL understand։ ա	it or reject this
CI	Consent Decree, and if species and if species are supplied to the second	proceed
0	0	
7	7 If the Consent Decree is not accepted	Ü
œ	8 and void, and no member of the BOARD will be disqualified from further hearing this	n further hearing this
9	9 matter by of the C	
Ö	0 Consent D	
7	1 against him at a it discii hearin	
N	2 'erences	
ω	3 Consent Decree	
4	This Consent Decree will not be submitted for BOARD	
Ċ	5 has been agreed to and uted by EARL	uosed t
Ö	6 effective until it has been approved by a majority כי יייי ביייייי	executed L
7	7 representative member of the BOARD	

### COMPLETE CONSENT DECREE

This Consent Decree embodies the entire agreement between the BOARD and EARL. It may not be altered, amended, or modified without the express written consent of the parties.

Served & Card (Sur

DATED this 30 to day of July , 2007

STATE OF NEVADA BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

RANDY REINOSO, Présiding Officer

The foregoing Consent Decree between GERALD EARL and the STATE OF NEVADA BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS in Case No. G05-02 is approved as to form and content.

CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO

Attorney General

₿⁄y:

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### **ORDER** IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE. DATED this 3014 day of July **Presiding Officer**

By a majority vote on the 13 day of \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2007, the State of Nevada Board of Examiners for Social Workers approved and adopted the terms and conditions set for the in the attached Consent Decree with GERALD EARL, LCSW

### Office of the Attorney General 5420 Kietzke Lane, Suite 202 Reno, NV 89511

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that I am an employee of the Office of the Attorney General and that on this day of July, 2007, served a copy of the foregoing CONSENT DECREE, by placing said document in the U.S. Mail, Certified, Return Receipt Requested, first class postage prepaid, addressed to:

Cheryl H. Wilson, Esq. Perry & Spann 1701 West Charleston Blvd., Ste 200 Las Vegas, NV 89102

Attorney for Gerald Earl, LCSW

An Employee of the Office of the Attorney General