

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

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IN THE MATTER OF THE	)	File # 308-2025
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDING OF	)	
RUTH KASPAR	)	
	)	STIPULATION
	)	

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The South Dakota Board of Social Work Examiners ("Board"), by and through its attorney, Renee Stellagher, Assistant Attorney General, and Ruth Kaspar ("Licensee") hereby enter into this Stipulation.

During all times herein, Licensee has been and is now subject to the jurisdiction of the Board from which she holds a valid South Dakota license to practice as a Certified Social Worker in private, independent practice—license number 1179. The Board has the statutory obligation to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare set forth in SDCL § 36-26. Licensee is subject to the provisions of SDCL § 36-26 and ARSD 20:59.

The Board received a complaint on January 13, 2025, alleging Licensee suffered from physical and mental impairments which caused her to violate her ethical requirement to properly complete client documentation. The Board investigated these allegations and alleges Licensee's conduct violated the National Association of Social Workers ("NASW") Code of Ethics in violation of SDCL § 36-26-32(6).

The Board and Licensee agree it would be in the best interest of all concerned to resolve the pending complaint without holding a formal contested

case hearing pursuant to SDCL chs. 1-26 and 36-1C. This Stipulation is intended to resolve all allegations contained within the complaint. The intent of this Stipulation is to provide for a disposition of the licensing issues presented by Licensee's conduct, in a professional manner, without the necessity of further hearings and proceedings herein, and to provide for a responsible resolution.

Based upon the above, it is hereby stipulated and agreed as follows:

1. The Board has jurisdiction over the person of the Licensee and the subject matter of this Stipulation.
2. The Board received complaints alleging Licensee suffered from physical and mental impairments which caused her to violate her ethical requirement to properly complete client documentation.
3. Licensee recognizes that the matters complained of are of a nature that could constitute grounds for discipline on Licensee's license to practice as a Social Worker in the State of South Dakota under SDCL 36-26-33.
4. Licensee recognizes that the Board may approve this Stipulation, reject it, or modify it. In the event the Board, in its discretion, does not approve this Stipulation or a lesser sanction, this Stipulation is withdrawn and will be of no evidentiary value and will not be relied upon nor introduced by either party.
5. Licensee agrees that if the Board rejects the Stipulation and this case proceeds to a hearing, she will assert no claim that the Board was prejudiced by its review and discussion of this Stipulation or any records or information relating thereto.
6. Licensee agrees that the Board's executive staff may present this Stipulation to the Board and disclose to the Board all items of its investigation, including, but not limited to, any communications with Licensee.
7. Licensee understands she acknowledges and understands that she has the right to counsel, notice and a due process hearing before the Board concerning the allegations, as well as other right as set forth in SDCL chs. 1-26 and 36-32, including the right to appeal to circuit court any final decision entered by the Board.
8. Licensee hereby knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily waives these rights and agrees to settle this matter in lieu of a formal hearing.

9. By entering into this Stipulation with the Board, Licensee hereby knowingly and voluntarily waives the above rights.
10. This Stipulation is a public record of the Board and the State of South Dakota, and it may be published and/or reported to the national data banks and all other entities deemed necessary by the Board in compliance with state and federal law. Licensee understands that the Board has reporting requirements and she consents to the documents relating to this matter being provided to the required entities and to state licensing authorities upon request.
11. Licensee has been given the opportunity to discuss this Stipulation with an attorney of Licensee's choice and is aware of the rights outlined above. Licensee hereby voluntarily waives all such rights to a hearing, notice, appearance, or other rights. Licensee is entering into this stipulation voluntarily and without duress or compulsion.
12. The Board requires, and Licensee agrees to the following:
  - i Licensee must complete one year of supervision at her own expense.
    - a. Licensee will provide to the Board, at a regularly scheduled meeting, the names of three individuals willing to provide supervision. The Board will make the final selection from the list of names provided by Licensee.
    - b. The supervisor must be able to assist Licensee with reinforcement of professional social work skills and ethical decision-making skills. The supervisor will be responsible for evaluating licensee's skill level after implementation and provide a monthly written report to the Board. The supervisor shall ensure the Licensee is completing client records according to NASW Code of Ethics.
    - c. The one-year supervision period will commence after Licensee obtains employment and begins working.
  - ii Licensee will be responsible for any and all costs associated with the completion of this Stipulation.
13. Failure to comply with the terms of this Stipulation is grounds for further disciplinary action, and the Board may move to revoke Licensee's license for failing to comply with this Stipulation.
14. Licensee shall comply with the NASW Code of Ethics and all rules and regulations governing the practice of social work in South Dakota or any other jurisdiction in which she practices social work.
15. Licensee shall provide this Stipulation to any other social work licensing entity in any other state in which she may be licensed.
16. The provisions of this Stipulation, if approved by the Board, shall become effective upon the Board President signing below. The Board's executive office shall notify Licensee when signing occurred.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Ruth Kaspar by her signature acknowledges she is aware of the substance of the allegations made against her, she acknowledges that she has had an opportunity to consult with legal counsel of her choice, and she states that she understands the terms of this Stipulation and knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily enters into this Stipulation.

Dated this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025.

Ruth Kaspar  
Ruth Kaspar  
Respondent and Licensee

Dated this 14th day of February, 2025.

/s/ Renee Stellagher  
Renee Stellagher  
Assistant Attorney General

The South Dakota Board of Social Work Examiners meeting on the 18 day of April, 2025 (approved) (rejected) the attached Stipulation (as written) (with the following modifications):

and issued its ORDER OF SUPERVISION consistent herewith as follows:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the above Stipulation is adopted as an Order of the South Dakota Board of Social Work Examiners this 18 day of April, 2025, by vote of majority.

[Signature]  
PRESIDENT