

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE)	File # 312-2025
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDING OF)	
RUTH KASPAR)	
)	STIPULATION

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

During all times herein, Kaspar 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. Kaspar is subject to SDCL § 36-26 and ARSD 20:59.

The Board received an initial complaint on January 13, 2025, alleging Kaspar 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 found Kaspar’s conduct violated the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics in violation of SDCL § 36-26-32(6).

On April 18, 2025, the Board and Kaspar entered into a Stipulated Agreement. The Stipulated Agreement required Kaspar to complete one year of supervision to ensure client records were being completed according to NASW Code of Ethics. The Stipulated Agreement stated “[f]ailure to comply with the

terms of this Stipulation is grounds for further disciplinary action, and the Board may move to revoke Kaspar's license for failing to comply with this Stipulation."

In July of 2025, Kaspar's Supervisor submitted his first monthly written report. Kaspar's Supervisor met with Kaspar six times between the end of May and beginning of July. In the report, Kaspar's Supervisor raised concerns that Kaspar is still unable to complete her client's reports. Kaspar's Supervisor stated Kaspar has not completed the requirements set by the Board or his expectations.

The Board received Kaspar's response, which stated her "physical condition has deteriorated" and "has not improved". Kaspar also stated she recognizes that her "physical health" "has impacted [her] ability to complete documentation."

This Stipulation offers Kaspar to surrender her License for revocation; she may reapply for licensure two years after the Stipulation goes into effect. Kaspar is not guaranteed a new license if she reapplies, but the Social Work Board will consider that she surrendered her license in evaluating her application. In granting licensure, the Board may require Kaspar to apply as a Certified Social Worker (SDCL 36-26-14), instead of a Certified Social Worker, Private Independent Practice (SDCL 36-26-17). This may include re-taking an ASWB exam, an examination by a competent medical examiner selected by the Board, and any other applicable requirements the Board determines necessary.

The Board and Kaspar 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 Kaspar'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 Kaspar and the subject matter of this Stipulation.
2. Kaspar recognizes that the matters complained of are of a nature that could constitute grounds for discipline on Kaspar's license to practice as a Social Worker in the State of South Dakota under SDCL 36-26-33.
3. Kaspar agrees to voluntarily surrender her license from the date the Social Work Board signs this Stipulation. While her license is revoked, she may not engage in the practice of Social Work.
4. Kaspar agrees that she may apply to have her license reinstated after a two-year period from the date the Board accepts this Stipulation. She also understands that she is not guaranteed a new license when she reapplies.
5. The Board agrees that, at the time Kaspar reapplies after the two-year period, it will, in determining whether or not to grant a license, consider that she voluntarily had her license revoked instead of pursuing a contested case.
6. If Kaspar reapplies, the Board may require Kaspar to apply as a Certified Social Worker (SDCL 36-26-14), instead of a Certified Social Worker, Private Independent Practice (SDCL 36-26-17). This may include re-taking an ASWB exam, an examination by a competent medical examiner selected by the Board to determine fitness to practice, and any other applicable requirements the Board determines necessary.
7. Kaspar 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.
8. Kaspar 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.
9. Kaspar 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 Kaspar.
10. Kaspar 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.

11. Kaspar hereby knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily waives these rights and agrees to settle this matter in lieu of a formal hearing.
12. By entering into this Stipulation with the Board, Kaspar hereby knowingly and voluntarily waives the above rights.
13. 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. Kaspar 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.
14. Kaspar has been given the opportunity to discuss this Stipulation with an attorney of Kaspar's choice and is aware of the rights outlined above. Kaspar hereby voluntarily waives all such rights to a hearing, notice, appearance, or other rights. Kaspar is entering into this stipulation voluntarily and without duress or compulsion.
15. Failure to comply with the terms of this Stipulation is grounds for further disciplinary action, and the Board may move to revoke Kaspar's license for failing to comply with this Stipulation.
16. Kaspar 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.
17. Kaspar shall provide this Stipulation to any other social work licensing entity in any other state in which she may be licensed.
18. 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 Kaspar 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 5th day of September, 2025.

Ruth Kaspar
Ruth Kaspar
Respondent and Licensee

Dated this 27th day of August, 2025.

/s/ Renee Stellagher
Renee Stellagher
Assistant Attorney General

The South Dakota Board of Social Work Examiners meeting on the 12th day of September, 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 12th day of September 2025, by vote of majority.

[Signature]

PRESIDENT