

<b>IN THE MATTER OF</b>	*	<b>BEFORE THE MARYLAND STATE</b>
<b>KRISTIN COUSIN, LCPC</b>	*	<b>BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL</b>
<b>Respondent</b>	*	<b>COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS</b>
<b>License Number: LC5206/LCA2160</b>	*	<b>Case Numbers: 2016-001</b>

\* \* \* \* \*

**ORDER OF REINSTATEMENT AND PROBATION**

**WHEREAS**, on May 15, 2020, the Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the "Board") entered into a Pre-Charge Consent Order with Kristin Cousin, License Number LC5206 and LCA2160, which reprimanded her license to practice professional counseling and professional alcohol and drug counseling in the State of Maryland;

**WHEREAS**, the Board, having considered a petition to reinstate Kristin Cousin's professional counseling license, License Number LC5206, and

**WHEREAS**, Kristin Cousin placed her license to practice professional alcohol and drug counseling, License Number LCA2160, on inactive status on or about January 31, 2019, and

**WHEREAS**, Kristin Cousin did not petition the Board for reinstatement of License Number LCA216;

It is therefore:

**ORDERED**, that Kristin Cousin's license to practice professional counseling, License Number LC5206, is hereby **REINSTATED** pursuant to the Health Occupations Article ("HO") section 17-514, effective upon the date of signature by this Board; and it is further

**ORDERED** that Kristin Cousin is hereby placed on **PROBATION** for a period of **two (2) years**, effective from the date of reinstatement; and it is further

**ORDERED** that Kristin Cousin shall comply with the specific terms and conditions of probation as follows:

(1) Kristin Cousin shall meet with a Board Approved Supervisor ("Supervisor") for a minimum of two (2) sessions per month for supervision and abide by the following terms of supervision:

- a. Kristin Cousin shall sign a release of information, authorizing the Board to communicate with and disclose to the Supervisor the investigative report and any other information relevant for supervision;
- b. Supervision shall focus on boundaries, dual relationships, and ethics in the workplace;
- c. Kristin Cousin shall ensure the Supervisor submits quarterly written reports of the supervision to the Board, which shall include but not be limited to the number and type of cases reviewed, issues discussed and his/her assessment of the Respondent's practice, and the Supervisor's recommendations, if any;
- d. Kristin Cousin shall inform the Board if the supervision is terminated for any reason and work with the Board to find a suitable replacement;

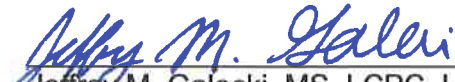
(2) Kristin Cousin shall complete a three (3) credit hour Board Approved graduate level Ethics Course. Documentation of satisfactory completion of the course shall be submitted to the Board; and it is further

(3) Kristin Cousin shall bear the costs of satisfying the terms and conditions of this Order; and it is further

**ORDERED** that if the Respondent violates any of the terms and conditions of this Consent Order, the Board, in its discretion, after notice and an opportunity for an evidentiary hearing if there is a genuine dispute as to the underlying facts, or an opportunity for a show cause hearing before the Board or otherwise, may impose any sanction that the Board may have imposed in this case including probation, suspension, revocation, and/or a monetary penalty; and it is further

**ORDERED** that this a Final Order of the Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists and as such is a **PUBLIC RECORD** pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. Art. §4-101 *et seq.* (2014 Rep. Vol.) which shall be posted to the Board's website and to any other entity to whom the Board is obligated to report.

April 16, 2021  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey M. Galecki, MS, LCPC, LCADC  
Board Chair  
Maryland State Board of Professional  
Counselors and Therapists

IN THE MATTER OF	*	BEFORE THE MARYLAND
KRISTIN COUSIN,	*	STATE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL
LCPC/LCADC	*	COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS
RESPONDENT	*	
LICENSE NO.: LC5206/LCA2160	*	Case NO.: 2016-001

\* \* \* \* \*

PRE-CHARGE CONSENT ORDER OF REPRIMAND

In January 2016, the Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the “Board”) received a complaint against the Respondent, Kristin Cousin, LC5206 and LCA2160. The Board investigated the allegations in the complaint. Based on its investigation, the Board voted to offer a Pre-Charge Consent Order to the Respondent, in lieu of issuing Charges for violations of the Maryland Professional Counselors and Therapists Act (the “Act”), codified at Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. (“Health Occ.”) §§ 17-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol. & 2017 Supp.), and the regulations adopted by the Board, at Md. Code Regs. (“COMAR”) §§ 10.58.01 *et seq.* The Board’s investigation revealed that the Respondent appears to have violated the following provisions of the Act and COMAR:

**Health Occ. § 17-509. Denial, probation, suspension, or revocation of certificate applicant or holder.**

- (8) Violates the code of ethics adopted by the Board;
- (13) Violates any rule of regulation adopted by the Board; and
- (16) Commits an act of immoral or unprofessional conduct in the practice of clinical or nonclinical counseling or therapy;

**COMAR 10.58.03. Code of Ethics.**

.04 Ethical Responsibility.

- A. A counselor shall:  
(1) Consult with other counselors or other relevant professionals regarding questions related to ethical obligations or professional practice;

...

- .05 Counseling Relationship.  
B. Dual Relationships.  
(1) A counselor shall:  
(a) Avoid dual relationships with clients;

The Board offered the Respondent an opportunity to settle this matter rather than pursuing formal charges against the Respondent. As a result of that offer, the Respondent and the Board agreed to the following Consent Order.

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board finds the following facts.

#### **Background**

1. On or about April 23, 2013, the Respondent was initially licensed to practice as a licensed clinical professional counselor (“LCPC”) in the State of Maryland under license number 5206. The Respondent placed her LCPC license on inactive status on or about February 1, 2019.
2. On or about June 15, 2015, the Respondent was initially licensed to practice as a licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor (“LCADC”) in the State of Maryland under license number 2160. The Respondent placed her LCADC license on inactive status on or about January 31, 2019.

3. At all times relevant, the Respondent was employed as an alcohol drug counselor/aftercare coordinator at Facility A, an alcohol and drug treatment facility located in Maryland.

### **Complaint**

4. On or about January 11, 2016, the Board received a complaint from the clinical director at Facility A. The complaint alleged that the Respondent was romantically involved with a former client and that the Respondent's former client appeared to have the same home address as the Respondent.

### **Investigation**

5. The Board's investigation revealed that the incident was initially investigated by the facility and the human resources department.
6. The Respondent admitted that she resided with the former client; that they started a romantic relationship soon after the former client's discharge from the facility; and that the relationship was ongoing.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board finds as a matter of law that the Respondent's conduct, as described above, constitutes a violation of §17-509 (8), (13) and (16) and COMAR 10.58.03.04 and .05.

**ORDER**

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is hereby by a majority of the Board members considering this case:

**ORDERED** that that the Respondent is hereby REPRIMANDED; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the Board may, in its discretion, place terms and conditions on the Respondent's license upon reactivation or reinstatement; and it is further

**ORDERED** that this Pre-Charge Consent Order of Reprimand is a public document, pursuant to Md. Gen. Prov. Code Ann. §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2019 Repl. Vol.) and is reportable to any entity to which the Board is obligated to report.

5/15/20  
Date

Risa Ganel / CG  
Risa, Ganel, MS, LCMFT  
Chair  
Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors  
and Therapists

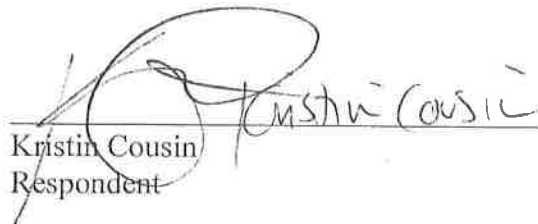
CONSENT

I, Kristin Cousin, acknowledge that I have had been made aware of my right to consult with counsel before signing this document. By this Consent, I accept a Reprimand in lieu of a formal evidentiary hearing on violations of the Act and COMAR contained in this Consent Order.

~~I acknowledge the validity of this Consent Order as if entered into after the~~ conclusion of a formal evidentiary hearing in which I would have had the right to counsel, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my own behalf, and to all other substantive and procedural protections as provided by law. I waive any rights I may have had to contest the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law. I acknowledge the legal authority and the jurisdiction of the Board to initiate these proceedings and to issue and enforce this Consent Order. I also affirm that I waive my right to appeal any adverse ruling of the Board that might have followed any such hearing.

I sign this Consent Order after having had an opportunity to consult with counsel, without reservation, and I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning and terms of this Consent Order. I voluntarily sign this Consent Order and I understand its meaning and effect.

4/30/2020  
Date

  
Kristin Cousin  
Respondent

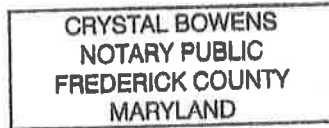


NOTARY

STATE OF \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY/COUNTY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 30 day of April 2020,  
before me, a Notary Public of the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared Kristin  
~~Cousin~~ and gave oath in due form of law that the foregoing Consent Order was her  
voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS, my hand and Notary Seal.



Notary Public

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Crystal Bowens".

My commission expires: 11/14/2023