STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY
CENTER FOR PROFESSIONAL BOARDS AND LICENSING
BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF: KAYLA L. DONNELLY
LICENSEE NO. :CSW02760
COMPLAINT ID #: C23-0055

CONSENT ORDER


After review and consideration by RIDOH with respect to the allegations of unprofessional conduct of Respondent, the following are and shall constitute

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. That Respondent is a Social Worker licensed to practice in the State of Rhode Island under Clinical Social Work License Number CSW02760.

2. That at all times relevant hereto, Respondent was employed by East Coast Mental Wellness of Providence, Rhode Island, which in turn had been contracted to provide mental health services at East Providence High School in East Providence, Rhode Island.

3. That on or about January 18, 2023, RIDOH received notice that on or about November 3, 2022, while in a treatment session with a minor client, when he brought to her attention a sexually explicit photo of her that he had received on his phone from a third party during the treatment session, continued the treatment session, including discussing the photo with the minor for several minutes. Respondent then failed to report the incident to the minor client’s parent or her clinical supervisor immediately following the treatment session.

4. That the conduct described in the Complaint and in Paragraph 3 above constitutes unprofessional conduct pursuant to the Clinical Social Worker and Independent Social Worker Rules as well as the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics which is incorporated into the Clinical Social Workers and Independent Social Worker Rules at Section 7.2 because
Respondent did not inform the minor client, the minor client's parent, or the clinical supervisor at the time a conflict of interest arose.

5. That Respondent admits to the jurisdiction of RIDOH and hereby agrees to remain under the jurisdiction of RIDOH.

6. That Respondent has read this Consent Order and understands this Consent Order shall become binding once signed by Respondent and RIDOH.

7. That Respondent understands the purpose of this Consent Order is solely to resolve the Complaint.

8. That Respondent hereby acknowledges and waives:
   a) The right to have an administrative hearing on this matter;
   b) The right to represent oneself or be represented by an attorney of Respondent's own choosing at said hearing;
   c) The right to present testimony, evidence and witnesses on Respondent's behalf;
   d) The right to cross-examine witnesses presented by RIDOH;
   e) The right to further procedural steps except for those specifically contained herein;
   f) The right to take an appeal from the terms of this Consent Order; and
   g) Any objection that this Consent Order will (i) be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank, (ii) become a permanent part of Respondent's record maintained by RIDOH and a part of the public record of this proceeding, or (iii) be posted on RIDOH's public website.

ACCORDINGLY AND BASED ON THE FOREGOING

RIDOH and Respondent hereby agree to the following disposition of this Complaint:

9. Respondent is hereby issued the sanction of a Probation, starting the day this Consent Order is last executed (the "Effective Date").

10. Commencing with the Effective Date:
   a) Respondent shall complete 3 hours of Continuing Education Units (CEUs) on Working with Minors and 6 CEUs on Ethics and Boundaries, in addition to the CEUs required for license renewal. Respondent shall submit evidence (e.g. certificates of completion) to RIDOH via DOH.PRCompliance@health.ri.gov that 9 hours CEUs as described above have been completed no later than 3 months after the Effective Date.
   b) Respondent's Social Work license will be subject to two (2) years period of probation and Respondent's license shall reflect the status "Active Probation."
   c) The probationary period will abate for the duration of any period in which Respondent ceases to be employed as a Social Worker.
   d) Respondent will notify RIDOH of any lapse in employment and the probation period will be extended until the required employment as a Social Worker is completed.
   e) Respondent must provide RIDOH with the name and address of the new employer(s) and the reason for said change.
f) Respondent shall obtain a Peer Clinical Supervisor, approved by RIDOH. Respondent shall meet with Peer Clinical Supervisor for at least one hour weekly. Peer Clinical Supervisor shall submit monthly reports in a form acceptable to RIDOH via DOH.PRCompliance@health.ri.gov by the 15th of the month following the end of each monthly reporting period.

g) When Respondent complies with the laws and regulations governing the practice of Social Worker during the period of probation and with the requirements of this Consent Order, Respondent may apply to RIDOH for an unrestricted license to practice as a Social Worker.

11. Respondent acknowledges that:
   a) This Consent Order is an agreement between Respondent and RIDOH;
   b) RIDOH is relying upon Respondent’s compliance with these terms and conditions as an inducement to enter into this Consent Order; and
   c) Any violation of, or failure to adhere to, the terms of this Consent Order shall constitute unprofessional conduct and subject Respondent to further disciplinary action at the discretion of RIDOH, including but not limited to Suspension or Revocation.

Kayla L. Donnelly  
LICENSEE NO.: CSW02760

Date Signed: 5/24/23

Bruce D. Todesco  
CENTER FOR PROFESSIONAL BOARDS AND LICENSING

Date Signed: July 7, 2023