

BEFORE THE IOWA BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

IN THE MATTER OF DENNIS DOZIER License No. 06670 RESPONDENT	CASE NO.: 23-387 COMBINED NOTICE OF HEARING, STATEMENT OF CHARGES, AND EMERGENCY ADJUDICATIVE ORDER
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COMES NOW the Iowa Board of Behavioral Health Professionals (“Board”) and files this Notice of Hearing, Statement of Charges, and Emergency Adjudicative Order against Dennis Dozier (“Respondent”), pursuant to Iowa Code sections 17A.12(2), 17A.18(3), 17A.18A, and 272C.3(1)(e).

A. TIME, PLACE AND NATURE OF HEARING

1. **Hearing.** A contested case hearing shall be held on April 24, 2025, before the Board. The hearing shall begin at 9:00 a.m. CT and shall be located in the conference room at the office of the Administrative Hearings Division, 6200 Park Avenue, Ste. 100 – East Entrance, Des Moines, Iowa 50321.
2. **Answer.** Within twenty (20) days of the date you are served this Notice of Hearing and Statement of Charges you may file an Answer. In that Answer, you should also state whether you will request a continuance of the date and time of the hearing.
3. **Filing of Pleadings.** Pleadings shall be filed with the Board at the following address: Iowa Board of Behavioral Health Professionals, 6200 Park Avenue, Ste. 100, Des Moines, Iowa 50321, by email to tony.alden@dia.iowa.gov, or electronically using the Administrative Electronic Document Management System (adminhearings.iowa.gov/efile/).
4. **Presiding Officer.** The Board voted to delegate this matter in full to the Administrative

Law Judge pursuant to Iowa Code section 272C.6. This matter is delegated in full to the Administrative Law Judge from the Administrative Hearings Division of Department of Inspections, Appeals and Licensing, to hear the disciplinary matter as well as any pre-hearing matters which may be filed by the parties. The Administrative Law Judge will serve as presiding officer at the contested case hearing.

5. **Prehearing Conference.** Any party may request a prehearing conference to discuss evidentiary issues related to the hearing in accordance with 481 IAC 10.16.

6. **Hearing Procedures.** The procedural rules governing the conduct of the hearing are found at 481 IAC 10. At the hearing, you may appear personally or be represented by legal counsel at your own expense. You will be allowed the opportunity to respond to the charges against you, to produce evidence on your behalf on issues of material fact, cross-examine witnesses present at the hearing, and examine and respond to any documents introduced at hearing. If you need to request an alternative time or date for hearing, you must comply with the requirements of 481 IAC 10.17. The hearing may be open to the public or closed to the public at the discretion of the Respondent.

7. **Prosecution.** The Office of the Attorney General is responsible for representing the public interest (the State) in this proceeding. Pleadings shall be filed with the Board and copies should be provided to counsel for the State at the following address: Samantha Wagner, Assistant Attorney General, Iowa Department of Justice, Office of the Iowa Attorney General, 1305 E. Walnut Street, 2nd Floor, Des Moines, Iowa 50309.

8. **Communications.** You may not contact Board members in any manner, including by phone, letter, facsimile, in person or e-mail, about this Notice of Hearing and Statement of Charges. Board members may only receive information about the case when all parties have notice and an opportunity to participate, such as at the hearing or in pleadings you file with the Board and serve

upon all parties in the case. You may contact Tony Alden, Board Executive, Iowa Board of Behavioral Health Professionals at 515-281-4825, and tony.alden@dia.iowa.gov, or Assistant Attorney General, Samantha Wagner, at Samantha.wagner@ag.iowa.gov.

B. LEGAL AUTHORITY AND JURISDICTION

9. **Iowa License**. Respondent maintains Iowa Social Work license number 06670. Respondent's license is inactive and expired on December 31, 2026.
10. **Jurisdiction**. The Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to Iowa Code chapters 147 and 148C.
11. **Legal Authority**. If any of the allegations against you are founded, the Board has authority to take disciplinary action against you under Iowa Code chapters 147 and 148C.
12. **Default**. The Board may enter a default decision or proceed with the hearing and render a decision in your absence, in accordance with Iowa Code § 17A.12(3) and 481 IAC 10.22.

C. STATEMENT OF CHARGES

COUNT I

13. Respondent is charged with knowingly engaging in unethical conduct or practice harmful or detrimental to the public by taking unfair advantage of any professional relationship or exploiting others to further the licensee's personal, religious, political, or business interests, in violation of 481 Iowa Administrative Code 897.2(8)(b)(4).

COUNT II

14. Respondent is charged with knowingly engaging in unethical conduct or practice harmful or detrimental to the public by engaging in physical contact with a client when there is a possibility of psychological harm to the client as a result of the contact in violation of 481 Iowa Administrative Code 897.2(10).

COUNT III

15. Respondent is charged with knowingly engaging in unethical conduct or practice harmful or detrimental to the public by sexually harassing a client in violation of 481 Iowa Administrative Code 897.2(16)(b).

COUNT IV

16. Respondent is charged with failing to comply with a Board order in violation of 481 Iowa Administrative Code 504.2(18).

D. FINDINGS OF FACT

17. **Practice Setting.** Respondent is a licensed Social Worker operating in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, during the time period relevant to these allegations.

18. **Factual Findings.** Respondent is a licensed Social Worker who practices in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. As a part of his practice, Respondent provided mental health counseling to individuals in and around Cedar Rapids.

19. Respondent provided counseling to a client who reports that the Respondent disclosed his own mental health struggles to him. The client became alarmed that the Respondent might die by suicide. The client further reports that the Respondent pressured the client into selling a car to a different client. There were additional reports that the Respondent made sexual advances towards the client.

20. In October 2024, the Board ordered the Respondent to undergo a comprehensive mental health and substance abuse evaluation. To date, the Respondent has failed to comply with the evaluation order despite continued representations to the Board he would do so.

E. SETTLEMENT

21. This matter may be resolved by settlement agreement. The procedural rules governing the Board's settlement process are found at 481 IAC 506.33. If you are interested in pursuing settlement of this matter, please contact the Assistant Attorney General identified above.

F. PROBABLE CAUSE FINDING

22. On March 13, 2025, the Iowa Board of Behavioral Health Professionals found probable cause to file this Notice of Hearing and Statement of Charges.

G. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

21. Pursuant to statute, the Board may take emergent action "as is necessary to prevent or avoid the immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare...". Iowa Code § 17A.18A(2).

22. Respondent's predatory actions towards his patients constitute a threat to public health and safety and the mental and physical well-being of Iowa's patients.

H. ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

A. The Board finds that Respondent has engaged in unethical conduct or practice harmful or detrimental to the public by taking unfair advantage of any professional relationship or exploiting others to further the licensee's personal, religious, political, or business interests.

Furthermore, the Board finds that the Respondent sexually harassed a client and that Respondent's behavior has caused psychological harm to the client.

B. Based on the foregoing, the Boards finds the Respondent is an immediate danger to the public health, safety and welfare.

C. Accordingly, Respondents Iowa Social Work license shall be INDEFINETLY SUSPENDED upon service of this order

Aaron L. Culley, L.D.S.W.

Aaron Culley, Chairperson

Iowa Board of Behavioral Health Professionals

Copy to:

Lindsey L. Browning

Samantha Wagner

Assistant Attorneys General

Iowa Department of Justice

Office of the Iowa Attorney General

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Des Moines, Iowa 50309

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PLEASE NOTE: If you require the assistance of auxiliary aids or services to participate in this matter because of a disability, immediately call 515-281-0233. (If you are hearing impaired, call Relay Iowa TTY at 1-800-735-2942).