

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF WAKE

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA  
ADDICTIONS SPECIALIST  
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD  
EC CASE NO. 823-24

NORTH CAROLINA ADDICTIONS )  
SPECIALIST PROFESSIONAL )  
PRACTICE BOARD, )  
Petitioner, )  
v. )  
NOAH FRANKLIN WATSON )  
(LCAS-A No. 29446), )  
Respondent. )

**CONSENT ORDER**

THIS MATTER is before a Panel of the Ethics Committee (the “Panel”) of the North Carolina Addictions Specialist Professional Practice Board (the “Board”), pursuant to Chapter 150B, Article 3A of the North Carolina General Statutes; the North Carolina Substance Use Disorder Professional Practice Act, North Carolina General Statute § 90, Article 5C; and Title 21, Chapter 68 of the North Carolina Administrative Code. The Board, with a quorum present, and Respondent stipulate and agree to the entry of the following Consent Order:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Petitioner Board was established by the North Carolina General Assembly to credential and regulate substance use disorder professionals in North Carolina, in accordance with Chapter 90, Article 5C of the North Carolina General Statutes.
2. Respondent currently is a citizen and resident of New Hanover County, North Carolina; and is neither a minor nor an incompetent person.
3. On February 20, 2024, Respondent was credentialed by the Board as a Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist Associate (“LCAS-A”) (LCAS-A No. 29446), which will expire on September 17, 2028, if not renewed.

4. On June 7, 2024, the Board received a self-report complaint, filed by Respondent, that Respondent had been charged with and subsequently convicted of Driving While Impaired. The complaint was designated by the Board as Ethics Complaint (“EC”) Case No. 823-24.
5. Upon investigation into EC Case No. 823-24, the Board determined the following:
  - a. On September 28, 2023, Respondent was arrested and charged with Driving While Impaired – Misdemeanor and Hit/Run - Leave Scene - Property Damage – Misdemeanor in New Hanover County District Court, court file no. 2023 CR 423164, following Respondent’s involvement in a motor vehicle collision resulting in property damage. Respondent’s secured bond was set at \$1,000.00 by the court.
  - b. Per the Forensic Laboratory Report from the New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office, Respondent’s reported blood alcohol concentration was 0.22 grams of alcohol per 100 milliliters of whole blood.
  - c. Respondent failed to notify the Board of the above-referenced criminal charges within thirty (30) days of the date of issuance of the charges.
  - d. On February 29, 2024, Respondent completed a Driving While Impaired (“DWI”) Substance Abuse Assessment at New Hope DWI Services, located in Wilmington, North Carolina in relation to the above-referenced criminal charge, which resulted in the recommendation that Respondent attend substance abuse treatment, with a Substance Abuse Intensive Outpatient Program (“SAIOP”) level of treatment clinically recommended to suffice DWI assessment requirements.
  - e. As of on or before February 29, 2024, Respondent completed the above-referenced recommended treatment.

- f. On March 13, 2024, an ignition interlock device was installed to Respondent's motor vehicle, set to prohibit Respondent from operating the motor vehicle with a breath alcohol concentration of greater than 0.02.
- g. On March 14, 2024, Respondent pled guilty to the above-referenced DWI- Level 5 charge in New Hanover County District Court, court file no. 2023 CR 423164-640, 2023 CR 002718.
- h. Respondent was sentenced to sixty (60) days in the custody of the Misdemeanant Confinement Program pursuant to a suspended sentence of twelve (12) months of unsupervised probation. Respondent was ordered to surrender his driver's license and to complete twenty-four (24) hours of community service during the first 150 days of probation.
- i. Respondent failed to notify the Board of the above-referenced criminal conviction within thirty (30) days.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

6. Respondent is subject to the North Carolina Addictions Specialist Professional Practice Act and the rules promulgated pursuant to the Act. The Board has jurisdiction over Respondent and the subject matter of this proceeding.
7. The acts and omissions of Respondent as described above constitute violations of the following:
  - a. Respondent failed to notify the Board of a criminal conviction imposed during the period of registration, in violation of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-113.40A(c);

- b. Respondent used drugs or alcoholic beverages to the extent that Respondent suffered impairment, in violation of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-113.44(a)(2a);
  - c. Respondent engaged in an act or practice in violation of the provisions of this Article and the rules adopted pursuant to it, in violation of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-113.44(a)(6);
  - d. Respondent engaged in conduct that could result in harm or injury to the public, in violation of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-113.44(a)(9);
  - e. Respondent knew of unethical conduct, as defined by the rules of this Chapter, and failed to report such violations to the Board, in violation of 21 NCAC 68 .0503(e);
  - f. Respondent failed to recognize the negative impact impairment has on his functioning in public and professional performance, and failed to report impairment to the Board, in violation of 21 NCAC 68 .0503(i);
  - g. Respondent was convicted of violating a driving while impaired law, in violation of 21 NCAC 68 .0601(5)(b);
  - h. Respondent used drugs, including alcohol, to the extent that Respondent suffered impairment, in violation of 21 NCAC 68 .0601(6)(c); and
  - i. Respondent failed to notify the Board within thirty (30) days of the date of issuance of criminal charges and a conviction, in violation of 21 NCAC 68 .0606(c)-(d).
8. Respondent committed one or more of the violations described above. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-113.33(2), the Board has the authority to deny, suspend, or revoke Respondent's licensure, certification, or registration to practice in this State or reprimand or otherwise discipline Respondent's license, certificate, or registration in North Carolina.

BASED upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and in lieu of further proceedings, Respondent wishes to resolve this matter by consent and agrees that Board staff and counsel may discuss this Consent Order with the Board *ex parte* whether or not the Board accepts this Consent Order as written.

Whereas Respondent acknowledges that he read this entire document and understands it;

Whereas Respondent acknowledges that he enters into this Consent Order freely and voluntarily;

Whereas Respondent acknowledges that he had full and adequate opportunity to confer with legal counsel in connection with this matter;

Whereas Respondent understands that this Consent Order must be presented to the Board for approval; and

Whereas the Board has determined that the public interest is served by resolving this matter as set forth below.

THEREFORE, with the consent of Respondent, it is ORDERED that:

1. Respondent's certification as a Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist Associate (LCAS-A No. 29446) from the North Carolina Addictions Specialist Professional Practice Board is hereby suspended. The active suspension of Respondent's LCAS-A shall remain in effect until no earlier than November 14, 2025.
  - a. The active suspension shall remain in effect until the final adjudication of any pending criminal matters Respondent may be subject to, including completion of any court-mandated supervision and/or or probation and payment of any restitution, costs and/or fees ordered by the courts;

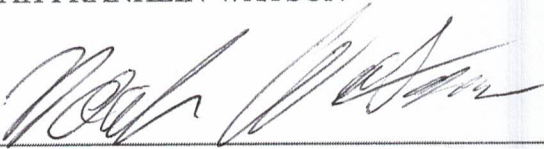
- b. In the event Respondent is charged with, or convicted of, any new criminal offense(s), his certification as an LCAS-A (LCAS-A No. 29446) shall be automatically terminated by the Board; and
  - c. Respondent shall appear before the Board's Ethics Committee for consideration, prior to the Board removing the active suspension of Respondent's LCAS-A.
2. The Board shall retain jurisdiction under Article 3A, Chapter 150B for all administrative hearings held in connection with or pursuant to this Consent Order. If the Board receives evidence that Respondent has violated any term of this Consent Order or any other law or rule enforced by the Board, the Board shall schedule a show cause hearing for a determination of the violations. If the Board determines that a violation has occurred, the Board may impose such disciplinary action as it determines is appropriate and is authorized by law.
3. This Consent Order shall take effect immediately upon its execution by the Board and Respondent and reflect the entire agreement between Respondent and the Board, there being no agreement of any kind, verbal or otherwise, which varies, alters, or modifies this Consent Order.
4. No modification or waiver of any provision of this Consent Order shall be effective unless it is in writing, adopted and approved by the Board, and signed by the parties affected.
5. Both the Board and Respondent participated in the drafting of this Consent Order. Any ambiguities herein shall not be construed against either party in any future civil or administrative proceeding.
6. Each party to this proceeding shall bear their own costs, and the Board shall bear its own

costs of investigation.

7. Upon its execution by the Board and Respondent, this Consent Order shall become a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the North Carolina General Statutes and shall be subject to public inspection and dissemination pursuant to the provisions thereof.

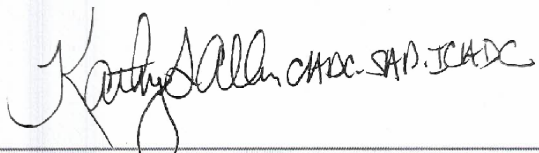
CONSENTED TO BY:

NOAH FRANKLIN WATSON

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Respondent Signature)

Date: 9/12/24  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Respondent Date)

By Order of the North Carolina Addictions Specialist Professional Practice Board, this the  
13th day of September, 2024.

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathy S. Allen, Ethics Chair