

1 **BEFORE THE ARIZONA BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EXAMINERS**

2 **In the Matter of:**

3 **Deana M. Perry, LMSW-17830,**  
4 **Licensed Master Social Worker, Applicant**  
5 **for licensure as a Licensed Clinical Social**  
6 **Worker**  
7 **In the State of Arizona.**

8 **RESPONDENT**

**CASE NO. 2023-0005**

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF**  
**LAW, AND ORDER OF REVOCATION AND**  
**ORDER OF DENIAL OF LICENSURE**

8 On May 10, 2024, the Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners (“Board”) held a  
9 formal hearing in the above matter for the purpose of determining whether good cause exists for  
10 the Board to discipline Deana M. Perry (“Respondent’s”) License No. LMSW-17839, pursuant to  
11 A.R.S. § § 32-3251 *et. seq.* and A.A.C. R4-6-101 *et. seq.*, and to consider the appeal filed by  
12 Respondent in the matter of her application for licensure as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.  
13 Assistant Attorney General Mona Baskin appeared on behalf of the State. Assistant Attorney  
14 General Carrie Smith was present to provide independent legal advice to the Board.  
15 Respondent was not present. Board staff verified that the Complaint and Notice of Hearing in  
16 this matter had been mailed to Respondent’s address of record with the Board, and a courtesy  
17 copy was also sent to Respondent’s email address of record with the Board.

18 AAG Baskin introduced 14 exhibits<sup>1</sup> and the testimony of one witness - Tobi Zavala, the  
19 Board’s Executive Director. After having considered all the testimony and evidence presented,  
20 the Board issues the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order for License  
21 Revocation.

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24 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 <sup>1</sup> Exhibits 2 - 9 and 11 were accepted under seal as confidential documents.

1 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

2 1. Respondent is the holder of License No. LMSW-17830, for the practice of social work  
3 in Arizona, which was issued by the Board on or about May 1, 2019.

4 2. On or about January 23, 2020, Respondent was approved for supervised private  
5 practice for her agency (“Agency”) under the supervision of a clinical supervisor (“Clinical  
6 Supervisor”), whom she met in May 2019 while they both worked at a home health agency.

7 3. In February of 2022, Respondent applied to the Board for an LCSW license. On the  
8 Board application, Respondent disclosed Clinical Supervisor as the supervisor who verified her  
9 supervised work experience and that the verification forms were submitted directly by Clinical  
10 Supervisor by email. Approximately 100 clinical supervision session notes were submitted in  
11 support of her application. Respondent signed a certifying statement that under penalty of  
12 perjury all information contained in her application, including all supporting documents were true  
13 and correct to the best of her knowledge and belief, and will full knowledge that any false  
14 statements or misrepresentations made in the application may be grounds for refusal,  
15 subsequent revocation or suspension of her license(s), or other disciplinary action.

16 4. On or about April 23, 2022, Board staff sent Respondent a deficiency notice  
17 identifying insufficient documentation relating to verification of supervised work experience and  
18 clinical supervision on her LCSW application. Board staff identified multiple areas of deficient  
19 documentation and asked Respondent to provide the documentation no later than June 22,  
20 2022. Board staff requested that Respondent have Clinical Supervisor submit the following  
21 documentation:

- 22 • Clinical Supervisor to complete new forms to include the hours acquired after  
23 01/23/20.
- 24 • Clinical Supervisor to submit copies of the contemporaneous documentation  
25 she relied on to verify the 3,200 hours of direct client contact hours

1 (psychotherapy and psychoeducation) and the contemporaneous clinical  
2 supervision session notes for the entire time from 01/23/20-01/30/22.

- 3 • Clinical Supervisor to complete new verification of clinical supervision and  
4 include the correct total hours based on inconsistencies in the submitted  
5 documentation.

6 5. On June 20, 2022, the Board received two documents in support of  
7 Respondent's application. The first document entitled, Social Work Verification of Clinical  
8 Supervision Form, states that the form must be completed by the Clinical Supervisor and must  
9 be submitted to the Board directly from the Clinical Supervisor. The form contains clinical  
10 supervision hours for 02/01/2020 to 02/01/2022, which reflects a total of 171 hours of clinical  
11 supervision. The Supervisor Attestation form bears the docusigned signature of Clinical  
12 Supervisor, dated 06/20/2022 12:52 PDT, attesting that the information in the verification and all  
13 supporting was true and correct. The form was submitted to the Board from Clinical  
14 Supervisor's email address.

15 6. The second document received by the Board on June 20, 2022, is entitled,  
16 Social Work Verification of Supervised Work Experience Form. The form indicates it must be  
17 completed by the Clinical Supervisor and must be submitted to the Board directly from the  
18 Clinical Supervisor. The form contains supervised work experience hours for 02/01/2020 to  
19 02/01/2022, which reflects a total of 3,200 hours of supervised work experience in the practice  
20 of social work. The Supervisor Attestation form bears the docusigned signature of Clinical  
21 Supervisor, dated June 20, 2022 16:44 PDT, attesting that the information in the verification and  
22 all supporting was true and correct. The form was submitted to the Board from Clinical  
23 Supervisor's email address.

24 7. On or about June 20, 2022, Board Staff received a response from Clinical  
25 Supervisor's email address, which Board Staff believed had been authored by Clinical

1 Supervisor. The email contained the following response, "Please find the additional  
2 documentation requested on 5/23/22 [sic] regarding licensure for supervisee DeAna Perry."  
3 The email contained a professional signature block for Clinical Supervisor with her contact  
4 information.

5 8. The June 20, 2022, email also contained the following two attachments: Clinical  
6 Hours Documentation Spreadsheet and Signed Scanned Supervision Session Notes. Board  
7 staff reviewed the submitted documentation and detected irregularities including discrepancies  
8 between the dates the sessions occurred and the dates of the clinical supervision notes.

9 9. The Board Executive Director ("ED") attempted to reach Clinical Supervisor  
10 multiple times to seek further clarification regarding the documentation provided to the Board.  
11 On June 29, 2022, the ED sent an email to Clinical Supervisor advising her that both of her  
12 phone numbers did not appear to be hers and asked her to call the ED. The ED did not receive  
13 a response from Clinical Supervisor. Instead, Respondent responded by telephone to the ED's  
14 email indicating that Clinical Supervisor forwarded the email to her. Respondent attempted to  
15 answer the ED's questions on behalf of Clinical Supervisor. The ED advised Respondent that  
16 she needed to speak with Clinical Supervisor in order to move forward with Respondent's  
17 application.

18 10. Respondent later contacted the ED by telephone and advised her that Clinical  
19 Supervisor was deceased.

20 11. The ED confirmed that Clinical Supervisor had passed away on 06/13/22.

21 12. Neither the ED nor Board staff ever spoke with Clinical Supervisor to confirm the  
22 validity of any of the documentation submitted to the Board relating to her clinical supervision of  
23 Respondent/Applicant.

24 13. Following the opening of a Board complaint, Respondent stated to Board Staff  
25 and in her written response to the Board that she created an email address at the request of

1 Clinical Supervisor that would grant Respondent access to the email. Respondent stated that  
2 she had created this email address because Clinical Supervisor had limitations with technology.  
3 The email address Respondent created contained the name of Clinical Supervisor and the  
4 name of Respondent's private practice. Respondent used the email address created in Clinical  
5 Supervisor's name to submit Board documentation.

6 14. The Board investigation revealed that Respondent sent emails to the Board  
7 purportedly from Clinical Supervisor, and signed and submitted forms to support her application  
8 on behalf of Clinical Supervisor both before and after she had passed away on June 13, 2022,  
9 in an attempt to obtain licensure.

10 15. Respondent represented the following in her written response and during her  
11 investigative interview:

12 a. On 01/31/22, after meeting and reviewing the approved supervision verification forms  
13 and supporting documentation, the initial verification of clinical supervision and  
14 verification of supervised work experience were submitted by Respondent to the  
15 Board on behalf of Clinical Supervisor.

16 b. On 05/23/22, Respondent and Clinical Supervisor met, in person, to review the  
17 application deficiencies noted by Board staff. Based on information maintained in a  
18 notebook, Clinical Supervisor subsequently physically signed the requested  
19 supporting documentation. The notes were signed and dated to appear as if they  
20 were signed contemporaneously on the date of the actual date the supervision had  
21 occurred. Respondent told Board staff that at the time she did not see her actions  
22 as improper but now understood how it is a misrepresentation.

23 16. Contemporaneous documentation of the clinical supervision sessions was not  
24 maintained, but rather the notes were created and signed once Board staff requested further  
25 information.



1 A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(c)(i), making any oral or written misrepresentation of a fact to secure or  
2 attempt to secure the issuance or renewal of a license.

3 2. The Board has jurisdiction over Respondent pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3251 *et seq.*  
4 and the rules promulgated by the Board relating to Respondent's professional practice as a  
5 licensed behavioral health professional.

6 3. The conduct and circumstances described in the Findings of Fact constitute a  
7 violation of A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(l), engaging in any conduct, practice or condition that impairs  
8 the ability of the licensee to safely and competently practice the licensee's profession; A.R.S. §  
9 32-3251(16)(c)(i), making any oral or written misrepresentation of a fact to secure or attempt to  
10 secure the issuance or renewal of a license.

11 **ORDER**

12 Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law, the Board issues the  
13 following order:

14 1. Respondent's license, LMSW-17830, is hereby REVOKED, effective  
15 immediately.


16 2. Respondent's appeal is DENIED and the previous decision to deny licensure is  
17 affirmed.

18 **RIGHT TO PETITION FOR REHEARING OR REVIEW**

19 Respondent is hereby notified of the right to petition for a rehearing or review by filing a  
20 petition with the Board's Executive Director within thirty (30) days after service of this Order.  
21 A.R.S. § 41-1092.09. The petition must set forth legally sufficient reasons for granting a  
22 rehearing. A.A.C. R4-6-1002. Service of this Order is effective five (5) days after the date of  
23 mailing. If a motion for rehearing is not filed, the Board's Order becomes effective thirty-five (35)  
24 days after it is mailed to Respondent.

25 ...

1 Dated this 28<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2024

2  
3 By:   
4 TOBI ZAVALA, Executive Director  
Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners

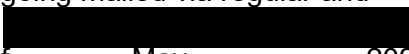
5 **ORIGINAL** of the foregoing filed  
This 28<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2024 with:

6 Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners  
7 1740 West Adams Street, Suite 3600  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

8 **COPY** of the foregoing mailed via Interagency Mail  
9 This 28<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2024, to:

10 Mona Baskin  
11 Assistant Attorney General  
2005 North Central Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85004

12 Carrie Smith  
13 Assistant Attorney General  
2005 North Central Avenue  
14 Phoenix, AZ 85004  
Attorney for the Board of Behavioral Health Examiners

15  
16 **COPY** of the foregoing mailed via regular and  
Certified mail no.   
17 This 28<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2024, to:

18 Deana M. Perry  
19 Address of Record  
Respondent