

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA  
BOARD OF LICENSED CLINICAL  
MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS

IN THE MATTER OF:

Joseph Rengifo, LCMHC  
Respondent  
No. 12895

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**CONSENT ORDER**

THIS CAUSE, coming on to be heard and being heard before the North Carolina Board of Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors [“the Board”], regarding pending complaint numbers 2205 and 2235; and

IT APPEARING to the Board that the Respondent has stipulated to certain facts and to the entry of a Consent Order in conformity therewith;

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED by the undersigned Respondent and the Board for the purposes of this disciplinary proceeding that:

1. Respondent was at all times relevant to this cause a licensed clinical mental health counselor and is subject to the Board’s jurisdiction pursuant to the North Carolina Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors Act, Chapter 90, Article 24 of the North Carolina General Statutes.
2. The Board issued an associate counseling license to Respondent on March 13, 2017. On February 8, 2019, Respondent became a licensed clinical mental health counselor [“LCMHC”], which license he renewed through June 30, 2026.
3. The Board’s Ethics Review Committee found probable cause that Respondent engaged in the following conduct while licensed by the Board:

**Case #2205**

- a. Complainant is a veteran who came to see Respondent for a cognitive deficit assessment.
- b. Despite the fact that Respondent already had 47 other assessment reports that needed to be completed, Respondent took Complainant on as a patient and proceeded to do the assessment, which was conducted over five visits.
- c. Respondent did not provide Complainant with an explanation regarding the process, procedures, and timelines for the report.
- d. Complainant was waiting for his results and contacted Respondent several times.
- e. Complainant's physician and the VA also reached out to Respondent and did not receive a response.

- f. Respondent did not provide Complainant with the results of his cognitive testing for five months and then only submitted them to Complainant's specialist.
- g. Respondent determined, based on the assessment, that the Complainant has early onset Alzheimer's.
- h. Because Respondent did not provide the results to the Complainant for five months, Complainant's reparative treatment was delayed.

**Case #2235**

- i. Respondent's practice and professional entity, which was solely owned by Respondent, provided both counseling and medical services and employed professionals to provide medical services.
- j. The Board received complaints from the North Carolina Medical Board and a former employee of Respondent's practice asserting that Respondent was engaged in the unlawful practice of corporate medicine and that he instructed a nurse practitioner employed by his practice to give a controlled substance belonging to one patient to a different patient, whose insurance had not authorized it.
- k. No findings or conclusions were reached in this Consent Order concerning the allegations that he directed the administration of a controlled substance to a patient.
- l. Respondent is not legally authorized or permitted to own a practice that provides medical services.
- m. Respondent's practice will no longer offer medical services, and he has agreed not to own any interest in any practice or other entity in the future that offers medical services.

4. Respondent's conduct, as determined by the Board and set forth above, violated Sections A.2.a., A.2.b., A.4.a., B.6.e., B.6.f., and C.2.a. of the American Counseling Association Code of Ethics (2014) and N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 90-340 (a)(9) and (12) of the North Carolina Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors Act.

5. The Board and Respondent wish to avoid the time and the costs associated with full litigation of this matter and, *in lieu* of any proceedings, enter into this Consent Order.

6. Respondent expressly waives notice of hearing, a hearing, the making of findings of fact and conclusions of law, and all further proceedings before the Board to which Respondent may be entitled by law. Respondent further agrees that presentation of this Consent Order to the Board for approval shall not constitute improper *ex parte* communication between the Board and its counsel, or the Board and its staff, nor require the recusal of the members of the Board from consideration of this matter before the full Board, should a hearing be required in this case.

7. Respondent forever releases the State of North Carolina, the North Carolina Board of Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors, and all its members, officials, agents, counsel, representatives, and employees, both past and present, in their individual or official capacities from any and all liability, suits, claims, and causes of action arising prior to or as a result of the execution of this Consent Order.



8. Respondent waives the right to seek judicial review or to otherwise challenge the validity of this Consent Order in any court or before the Board in the future. Respondent understands and agrees that this Consent Order shall be effective only after approval by the full Board and signature of its Chairperson.

9. Respondent was represented by Maria Wood with Hall Booth Smith P.C. in connection with the execution of this Consent Order. The Board was represented in this Consent Order by Douglas Brocker of The Brocker Law Firm, P.A.

10. This Consent Order contains the entire agreement between the undersigned, there being no agreement of any kind, verbal or otherwise, which varies, alters, or adds to this Consent Order.

11. This Consent Order shall constitute disciplinary action against the license of Respondent, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §90-340(a) and (b). Respondent understands that this Consent Order may have adverse consequences in other contexts, which shall not be the basis for reconsideration of its terms in the future.

12. Respondent has read this entire Consent Order, assents to its terms and conditions, and agrees not to contest the findings, conclusions, or order in any future potential proceedings by, against, or involving the Board. By entering into this Consent Order, Respondent is not making any admissions for any current or future proceedings, other than those by, against, or involving the Board.

13. Respondent agrees to service of the fully executed Consent Order via email to his counsel and waives service by any other method.

Based upon the record and the foregoing stipulations,

NOW, THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

I. Respondent's license number 12895 is suspended, but the suspension is immediately stayed and his license placed on PROBATION, with no active suspension, provided he complies with all the following conditions:

- a. Respondent shall complete a minimum of 1,000 hours of supervised clinical mental health practice under these conditions:
  - i. The supervisor shall be approved by the Board, pursuant to Administrative Rules 21 NCAC 53 .0702 and 21 NCAC 53 .0801, to supervise Respondent's professional practice ["Supervisor"], prior to the beginning of supervision;
  - ii. The supervision contract shall be filed with the Board office no later than 60 days from the date the Consent Order is entered by the Board;

- iii. Respondent shall provide a copy of the Consent Order to his Supervisor. The Supervisor(s) shall confirm the receipt of the Consent Order in the first supervision report;
  - iv. Of the required 1,000 hours of supervised clinical mental health practice, 667 hours shall be direct service to clients;
  - v. The supervised experience shall be completed at a rate of no more than 40 hours per week (one hour of supervision per 40 hours of professional practice);
  - vi. The Supervisor shall file quarterly reports and a final report with the Board. Respondent is responsible for ensuring the Supervisor submits the quarterly reports to the Board no later than January 30, April 30, July 30, and October 30 for the previous quarter; and
  - vii. Respondent shall bear any costs and associated expenses of the supervision.
- b. Within 90 days from the date the Consent Order is entered by the Board, Respondent shall complete the following additional 15 CE hours approved in advance by the Board: (i) 5 contact hours on boundaries of competence; (ii) 5 contact hours on informed consent; and (iii) 5 contact hours on creating records, and providing client access and assistance with records. This coursework requirement shall be in addition to the continuing education coursework required for all licensees under the Board's Administrative Rules. All costs associated with this continuing education requirement shall be borne by Respondent. Upon successful completion of this continuing education coursework, Respondent shall submit to the Board a certificate of completion provided by the continuing education sponsor.
- c. Respondent and his practice, Wilmington Mental Health, shall not offer or provide medical services in the future. Respondent will not own or have any ownership interest in any practice or entity that provides medical services, nor have any supervisory or clinical involvement in providing medical services at any time in the future. Provided that if in the future Respondent were to obtain and maintain an active medical license or privilege to provide medical services in North Carolina, this prohibition would no longer apply.
- d. Respondent shall not violate any provision of the Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors Act and the Board's rules and regulations, including the ACA Code of Ethics.
- e. Respondent shall submit to interviews by the Board or its authorized agent and arrange for the Board or its agent to interview his employer, employees, and co-workers during regular office hours or at such other times as are mutually convenient.
- f. Respondent shall comply with all requirements for renewal of licensure, including continuing education and payment of fees.



- g. Respondent shall keep the Board apprised of his current address, phone number, and email and notify the Board of any change to that contact information no later than ten days after it becomes effective.

II. The Board shall maintain this Consent Order as a public record pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §§132-1 and 90-340(f), shall submit a report to the National Practitioner Databank, and shall provide copies to the American Counseling Association and the National Board of Certified Counselors, and to other agencies or individuals as required by law.

III. Respondent may petition the Board to be released from Probation once he has completed the requirements set forth in Paragraph I above and provides supporting documentation or evidence that he has satisfied all conditions. Respondent shall remain on Probation until the Board grants such a Petition.

IV. The Board recognizes that the conditions, limitations, or requirements set forth in this Consent Order may present Respondent with certain practical difficulties. The Board concludes that each one is necessary to ensure public protection, and it does not intend to modify or eliminate any of the conditions, limitations, or requirements set forth herein based on such potential difficulties, except as noted in Paragraph III.

V. The Board shall retain jurisdiction of this matter and Respondent to enforce the provisions herein or enter orders as necessary in the future.

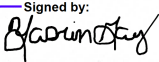
VI. If Respondent fails to comply with any provision of this Consent Order or breaches any term or condition thereof, the Board shall promptly schedule a public Show Cause Hearing to allow Respondent an opportunity to show cause as to why the suspension of Respondent's license shall not be activated for violating a valid order of the Board. If after the Show Cause Hearing, the Board is satisfied by a preponderance of the evidence that Respondent failed to comply with or breached any term or condition of this Consent Order, the Board shall activate the suspension and also may enter such other discipline or conditions as the evidence warrants for proven violations of the Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors Act or of the Board's Rules occurring after entry of this Consent Order.

VII. This Order is effective as of the date it is signed by the Chair and served on Respondent's counsel to her email address.

CONSENTED TO BY:

NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF LICENSED  
CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS

BY:


Signed by:  


Dr. Yasmin Gay, LCMHCS  
Board Chairperson

8/21/2025

Date

RESPONDENT:



Joseph Rengifo

8/6/2025

Date