

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA
BOARD OF LICENSED CLINICAL
MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
Robert McCarthy, LCMHC)
Respondent)
No. 19162)

**ORDER SUMMARILY
SUSPENDING LCMHC LICENSE**

Based on the information obtained to date, the North Carolina Board of Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors ["the Board"] makes the following preliminary findings:

1. Respondent was at all times relevant to this cause a licensed clinical mental health counselor ["LCMHC"] 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 ["Counselors Practice Act"].
2. The Board issued a LCMHC license to Respondent on August 25, 2023, which is active through June 30, 2027.
3. These findings are based on Respondent's actions leading to his arrest and detention on federal criminal charges and his counseling license being temporarily suspended in South Carolina where his practice is located.
4. On April 2, 2026, Respondent was arrested on federal criminal charges of possession of child pornography, in violation of 18 USC 2252A, as set out in a criminal complaint and supporting affidavit from a special agent of the FBI ["Charging Documents"]. The charging documents assert the following as to Respondent:
 - a. On March 30, 2026, the FBI executed a search warrant to obtain and search a server with an IP address subscribed to Respondent's practice, McCarthy Counseling Associates, in Myrtle Beach, SC.
 - b. The FBI found numerous child pornography video and photography files on the server associated with Respondent's practice.
 - c. Documents associated with Respondent's counseling practice were also located on the server in the same folder as the child pornography files.
 - d. There is evidence that Respondent was responsible for placing the child pornography on the server affiliated with his counseling practice, including requesting that photos be sent to the office address where his counseling practice is located.
 - e. Respondent also allegedly discussed sexual abuse of nonverbal patients and coordinating schedules to abuse children.
5. On April 7, 2026, the South Carolina board governing professional counselors entered an order of temporary suspension of Respondent's license in that state finding that it had information to conclude that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively required emergency action.

6. On April 13, 2026, a federal magistrate judge entered an order of detention for Respondent pending trial. The federal judge concluded by clear and convincing evidence that no condition or combination of conditions of release of Respondent will reasonably ensure the safety of any other person and the community. The judge further found that the weight of evidence against Respondent is strong and that his potential release would pose a serious danger to any person or the community.

7. Based on the evidence obtained by the Board to date, probable cause exists that the public health, safety, or welfare requires emergency action as to Respondent's license to prevent potential grave harm to the public, including to minor clients.

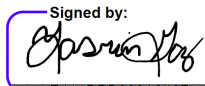
Based on the results of the preliminary investigation, **the Board hereby Orders that:**

1. License number 19162 issued to Respondent is summarily suspended pursuant to G.S. 150B-3(c).
2. Respondent is prohibited from engaging in any counseling practice in North Carolina and shall temporarily surrender his LCMHC license to the Board.
3. The Summary Suspension shall be effective upon entry and shall remain in effect until either a Final Agency Decision is rendered, or the Board enters a subsequent order regarding the Summary Suspension. A copy of the Order shall be served to Respondent's last designated address(es) with the Board.
4. The Board's Summary Suspension is not a Final Agency Decision concerning whether Respondent committed any violations of the Counselors Practice Act or the Board's regulations or concerning Respondent's license.
5. Formal proceedings will be promptly commenced and determined if Respondent submits a written request for a contested case hearing to the Board.
6. If he submits a request for a contested case hearing, Respondent will be served with a Notice of Hearing containing the allegations to be heard in accordance with G.S. 150B-38(b).
7. Absent such a written request from Respondent, the investigation will be completed after the criminal proceedings have concluded, and thereafter, a formal, contested case hearing will be scheduled or other resolution will be reached as soon as feasible.

This the 15 day of May, 2026.

NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF LICENSED
CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS

BY:

Signed by:

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Dr. Yasmin Gay, LCMHCS
Board Chairperson