

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

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3 **In the Matter of:**

4 **Katherine Freeman, LMSW-12596, Suspended,**  
5 **Licensed Master Social Worker, in the State of**  
6 **Arizona.**

6 **Respondent.**

**COMPLAINT NO. 2009-0128**

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

7 On October 18, 2011, the Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners ("Board") held a  
8 formal hearing in the above matter. The State was represented by the Office of the Attorney General,  
9 Assistant Attorney General Marc H. Harris. Christopher Munns of the Solicitor General's Office was  
10 present to provide independent legal advice to the Board. Respondent was properly noticed, but did not  
11 appear.

12 After having considered all the testimony and evidence presented, the Board issues the following  
13 Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order.

14 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

15 1. From September 1, 2008, through August 31, 2010, Respondent held License No.  
16 LMSW-12596 (suspended) for the practice of social work in the State of Arizona.

17 2. From February 2001, through October 2001, Respondent was employed as a  
18 "primary therapist" by Remuda Ranch ("Remuda"), an agency licensed by the Arizona Department of  
19 Health Services' Office of Behavioral Health Licensing ("OBHL").

20 3. On July 19, 2001, Remuda issued to Respondent an "Employee Notice of  
21 Disciplinary Suspension" suspending Respondent's employment without pay pending an  
22 investigation into allegations of harm to another employee. Remuda ended Respondent's suspension  
23 on July 24, 2001.

24 4. On August 23, 2001, Remuda issued Respondent a "Formal Reprimand" for (1)  
25 "triangulation of supervisory relationship," (2) neglecting to timely give a new admission direction

1 and assignments, (3) a pattern of significant delinquency in documentation, and (4) demonstrating a  
2 pattern of defensiveness toward a supervisor and disclosing supervisor redirection to another  
3 employee. Respondent resigned from Remuda effective October 12, 2001.

4 5. From December 2001, through January 2006, Respondent was employed as a  
5 therapist by Sierra Tucson ("Sierra"), an OBHL licensed agency.

6 6. In December 2003, Sierra issued Respondent an "Employee Warning Notice" for  
7 engaging in an inappropriate discussion with a colleague in front of a patient.

8 7. In March 2005, Sierra placed Respondent on two-month probationary period to  
9 address Respondent's becoming "overly involved with her patients," and "countertransference  
10 issues."

11 8. On November 23, 2005, Sierra issued an "Employee Warning Notice" to Respondent  
12 based upon a grievance for inappropriate anger filed against her by a co-worker. On January 22,  
13 2006, Respondent resigned from Sierra.

14 9. In March 2008, Respondent filed an Application for a Master Social Worker license  
15 ("Application"). In signing the Application, Respondent certified under penalty of perjury that all of  
16 the information provided was true and correct to the best of her knowledge.

17 10. On the employment history section of the Application, Respondent stated that she  
18 had had been "laid off" from her position at Remuda. In fact, Respondent submitted a letter of  
19 resignation on ~~October 9, 2001~~, in which she offered to continue working for 30 days.

20 11. On the employment history section of the Application, Respondent stated that she  
21 had resigned from Sierra "to pursue management opportunities." In fact, Respondent's letter of  
22 resignation stated that she was resigning her position due to "current physical problems."

23 12. On the background information section of the Application Respondent answered  
24 "No" to Question No. 4, which asked: "[h]ave you ever had any disciplinary action or sanctions of  
25 any kind taken against you by any state or federally licensed facility or employer in Arizona or any  
other state or country?"

1 13. On June 8, 2009, the Board received an anonymous complaint against Respondent  
2 regarding alleged unprofessional conduct by Respondent while employed at Sierra, prior to her  
3 LMSW licensure. Following this complaint, Respondent moved to Nevada without informing the  
4 Board of her change of address and let her LMSW license expire.

5 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

6 1. The conduct and circumstances described in the Findings of Fact constitute a  
7 violation of A.R.S. § 32-3251(12)(c)(i), in that Respondent used fraud or deceit in establishing her  
8 qualifications for licensure by misrepresenting facts on her 2008 Master Social Worker license  
9 application.

10 2. The conduct and circumstances described in the Findings of Fact constitute a  
11 violation of A.R.S. § 32-3251(12)(ii), the violation of any behavioral health rule, in that Respondent  
12 violated A.A.C. R4-6-205 by failing to keep the Board apprised of her current address.

13 **ORDER**

14 Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Board issues the following  
15 order:

16 License No. LMSW-12596 issued to Katherine Freeman is hereby **REVOKED**.

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

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

23 Respondent is further notified that the filing of a motion for rehearing is required to preserve any  
24 rights of appeal to the Superior Court.

25 ...

1 Dated this 31st day of October, 2011

2 

3 Debra Rinaudo, Executive Director  
4 Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners

5 **ORIGINAL** of the foregoing filed

6 The 31st day of October, 2011, with:

7 The Board of Behavioral Health Examiners  
8 3443 North Central Avenue, Suite 1700  
9 Phoenix, AZ 85012

9 **COPY** of the foregoing sent certified mail

10 This 31st day of October, 2011, to:  
11 7011 1150 0002 0782 5259

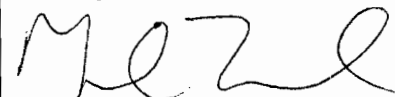
12 Katherine Freeman  
13 Address of Record  
14 Respondent

15 **COPY** of the foregoing sent by mail this

16 31st day of October, 2011 to:

17 Marc Harris  
18 Assistant Attorney General  
19 1275 West Washington CIV/LES  
20 Phoenix, AZ 85007  
21 Attorney for the State of Arizona

22 Christopher Munns  
23 Assistant Attorney General, Solicitor General's Office  
24 1275 West Washington CIV/LES  
25 Phoenix, AZ 85007  
26 Attorney for the Board of Behavioral Health Examiners

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28 Board Staff