

**BEFORE THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD  
OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS**

**IN THE MATTER OF** )  
 )  
**OF ERIN DeGOSTIN,** ) **CASE NO. 09-1899C-08**  
 )  
**RESPONDENT.** )

**COMPLAINT**

Upon consideration of the allegations set forth in this Complaint, the Complainant herein, the Investigative Committee of the Alabama State Board of Social Worker Examiners, (the “Board”), submits there is sufficient merit in such allegations to warrant the filing of this formal Complaint and alleges as follows:

**I.**

Respondent Erin DeGostin heretofore had been duly issued a license to practice as a social worker by the Board and, at all times relevant to this Complaint, was licensed to practice as a social worker in Alabama under a license.

**II.**

Since the issuance of such license, Respondent Erin DeGostin has committed acts in violation of the code of ethics and/or the administrative code provisions governing the practice of social work in the State of Alabama, to wit:

1. In the summer of 2008, Erin DeGostin entered into a Consent Order with the Arkansas Social Work Licensing Board. The initial charges were being under the influence of drugs while performing social work services. In the Consent Order, the requirements placed on Ms. DeGostin included attending weekly supervision sessions with a LCSW and submitting for random drug testing.

2. In November 2008, Erin DeGostin failed to respond to a request from the Arkansas Social Work Licensing Board regarding a random drug test.
3. On December 4, 2008, the Arkansas Social Work Licensing Board received a letter from the LCSW responsible for supervision of Erin DeGostin stating that Ms. DeGostin failed to participate in supervision scheduled on December 1, 2008 or contact the LCSW about her failure to attend this session.
4. On February 10, 2009, the Arkansas Social Work Licensing Board revoked Erin DeGostin license to practice in Arkansas.

### **COUNT**

Allegations contained in paragraphs in this Complaint constitute a violation of the Alabama State Board of Social Worker Examiner's Administrative Code, Section 850-X-10-.01 (2)(o), which prohibits a social worker from being addicted or habitual to any chemical substance that impairs the ability to practice competently and Section 850-X-10-.01 (2)(r) being disciplined in another jurisdiction based on grounds that are the same or substantially the same as those which exist under the Rules [Alabama Board of Social Work Examiners].

WHEREFORE, these PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Complainant, the Investigative Committee of the Board, submits that Probable Cause exists to file this formal Complaint which requires an Answer by the Respondent. The Respondent has twenty days to respond in writing to this Complaint.

Done this 9th day of April 2009.

ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF  
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS  
BY-

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BRENDA W. HOLDEN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Address of Attorney for the Board**

Ellen Leonard  
Assistant Attorney General  
500 Dexter Avenue  
Montgomery, AL 36130  
(334) 242-7371  
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BEFORE THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT )

AGAINST ERIN DeGOSTIN, )

Case No.: 09-1899C-08

Respondent )

ORDER OF FORMAL HEARING

For good cause, it is ORDERED that

A formal hearing on the allegations contained in the attached Complaint is hereby set for May 18, 2009, at 10:00 AM, in the Conference Room in the Office of the Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners (Board), 100 North Union, Suite 736, Montgomery, Alabama.

Section 34-30-5, Code of Alabama (1975), outlines your rights, which shall include:

Your right to the presence of counsel at the hearing at your expense;

Your right to cross-examine witnesses;

Your right to call witnesses on your behalf and to present evidence; and

Your right to subpoena witnesses and documents.

If, after a hearing, the Board finds that the allegations against you have been substantiated, it may revoke any license issued pursuant to Section 34-30-33(d) Code of Alabama (1975), under its authority, or it may return a finding that the charges have not been proved. Additionally, pursuant to Section 34-30-33(d) Code of Alabama (1975), the Board may take action to enjoin a violation of the law.

Your failure to attend this hearing will be considered as a waiver of your rights to be present.

DONE this the 9<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2009.

ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF  
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

BY-

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BRENDA W. HOLDEN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Address of Attorney for the Board:

Ellen Leonard  
Assistant Attorney General  
500 Dexter Avenue  
Montgomery, AL 36130  
(334) 242-6989  
(334) 262-8041 (Fax)

August 27, 2009

Ms. Erin DeGostin  
XXXXXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXXXXX

Dear Ms. DeGostin:

The Board of Social Work Examiners in Alabama has voted to accept the Hearing Officer's recommendation to revoke your license in Alabama at their meeting of August 7, 2009. At this time the minutes for this meeting have not yet been approved and will not be approved until the next meeting of September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009. When the minutes are reviewed and approved by the board I will forward you a copy of the portion pertaining to the decision on your licensure.

Should you have any questions you may reach me at the telephone number or address listed above.

Sincerely,

Brenda Holden  
Executive Director

September 22, 2009

Ms. Erin DeGostin  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Dear Ms. DeGostin:

Please find enclosed a portion of the minutes from the August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Board Meeting referencing the decision of your licensure in Alabama. These minutes were approved at the September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Board Meeting.

Should you have any questions you may reach me at the telephone number or address listed above.

Sincerely,

Brenda Holden  
Executive Director