



**BEFORE THE STATE OF OREGON
BOARD OF LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS**

In the Matter of) **Case No. 2021-15**
)
CHIHO SAKAMOTO-GUNTON) **Stipulated Final Order of Probation**
LCSW #L5992)
Respondent.)

1.

The Board of Licensed Social Workers (hereafter referred to as "Board") is the state agency responsible for licensing, certifying, regulating, and disciplining regulated social workers in the State of Oregon, including but not limited to Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Licensed Master's Social Workers, and Clinical Social Work Associates, pursuant to ORS 675.510 to 675.600 and OAR Chapter 877.

2.

At all times material herein, Chiho Sakamoto-Gunton (hereafter referred to as "Respondent") was licensed as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) in the State of Oregon from January 22, 2014, to the present, and subject to the full jurisdiction of the Board.

3.

3.1 On March 25, 2021, Respondent notified the Board by email that Respondent had engaged in a dual sexual relationship with a client during the period of January 1, 2020, to July 31, 2020.

3.2 Respondent worked at Samaritan Health Services as a Homeless Services Coordinator during the period of at least September 1, 2019, through July 31, 2020. Beginning in September 2019, Respondent provided social work services to Client, including by assisting Client with obtaining temporary housing through a shelter program.

1 3.3 In December 2019, Client requested Respondent close his case to allow them to
2 become friends and engage in a relationship outside of the social worker-client relationship.
3 Initially, Respondent did not close Respondent's case, continued to provide social work services
4 to Respondent, and resisted Respondent's request to engage in a relationship outside the social
5 worker-client relationship. However, in January 2020, after Client was removed from the
6 temporary housing shelter where he was living, Respondent paid for Client to stay in a hotel,
7 wherein Respondent and Client engaged in a sexual relationship.

8
9 3.4 Beginning in January 2020, Respondent secured and paid for a residence for
10 Respondent and Client to live together during which time Respondent and Client continued to
11 engage in a sexual relationship. In July 2020, Respondent decided to move out of the residence
12 and end the sexual relationship due to Client's escalating health condition. Thereafter,
13 Respondent continued to pay the rent and utilities for Client to continue to live in the residence
14 for a period of several months.

15 3.5 Respondent acknowledges and admits to the above facts.

16 3.6 Respondent represents that the above dual relationship with Client is the only
17 dual relationship she has ever entered into with a client or former client. Respondent further
18 represents that she will never ever again enter into a dual relationship with a client or former
19 client within three years of ending the social worker – client relationship with the former client.
20

21 4.

22 Based on the above, the Board finds and concludes, and Respondent admits, that
23 Respondent engaged in a dual sexual relationship in violation of Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR)
24 877-030-0070(1)(g).

25 5.

26 Respondent and the Board desire to resolve this matter pursuant to ORS 183.417(3) by
27 issuance of the Stipulated Final Order below which immediately upon issuance places Respondent
28

on Probation as provided herein, under the authority of ORS 675.533, 675.595, OAR Chapter 877 Division 15, and other applicable authority.

6.

Respondent understands, acknowledges, stipulates, and agrees to the following:

6.1 This Stipulated Final Order of Probation (hereafter "Order") will be submitted to the Board for approval and is subject to and conditioned upon approval by the full Board. If approved and adopted by the Board, the Order may be issued and entered.

6.2 The Order below, once issued, is a Final Order.

6.3 Respondent voluntarily agrees to and accepts the following terms and conditions of **PROBATION**, pursuant to ORS 675.540(2)(b) and ORS 675.595(7),(8)(a),(8)(b),(16), and (20), and other applicable authority:

6.3.1 Upon issuance of the Order, Respondent's BLSW license is immediately placed on PROBATION for the term of two (2) years and until Respondent has fully complied with all the terms, conditions, and requirements of probation as specified herein as determined by the Board in its sole discretion.

6.3.2 During the period of probation, Respondent must do the following:

- a. Respondent must within ten (10) calendar days of issuance of the Order enter into and continue supervision as provided herein with a Board approved Licensed Clinical Social Worker (hereafter referred to as the "Supervisor");
- b. Respondent must meet with the Supervisor a total of at least two (2) times per month with each meeting being at least one (1) hour in length to review and discuss ethics issues related to Respondent's social worker practice with a focus on issues related to client boundary and dual relationships and steps that Respondent is taking to ensure that Respondent never again enters into a dual relationship with a client or former client within three years of ending the social worker – client relationship with the former client. Supervision must occur in an individual setting.
- c. Respondent authorizes the Board and its staff to communicate directly with the Supervisor and Respondent shall provide any necessary releases for the Board to communicate directly with the Supervisor.
- d. Respondent shall instruct and have the Supervisor provide quarterly status reports to the Board during the period of probation, and a final report to the Board within thirty (30) days of the end of the period of probation, regarding

1 the supervision provided to Respondent and Respondent's compliance with
2 the terms of probation;

- 3 e. Respondent must during the period of probation complete six (6) hours of
4 Continuing Education (CE) that focuses on client boundary and dual
5 relationship ethical issues. This CE requirement is in addition to and separate
6 from any CE required for Respondent's BLSW licensure. Respondent must
7 within thirty (30) days of completion of each CE course provide written proof
8 of completion and a report to the Board that summarizes the information and
9 lessons learned from the course and how Respondent will apply that
10 information and lessons to Respondent's social work practice. Each report
11 by Respondent must be in typewritten form, a minimum of three pages in
12 length, double spaced, with 12 point font size and one inch margins; and
13
14 f. The Supervision and Continuing Education required by this Agreement and
15 Order, and all costs, fees, and expenses required for Respondent to comply
16 therewith, shall be paid by and are the sole responsibility of Respondent.

17 6.4 This Order is a public document and a matter of public discipline, pursuant to
18 ORS 675.540 and other applicable authority. This document must be disclosed, published and
19 reported in accordance with ORS 676.175(5)(a)(D), OAR 877-040-0050, and Oregon Public
20 Records Law.

21 6.5 Any violation of the terms of this Order shall be grounds for action by the Board.
22 The Board has the right to take action against Respondent to enforce this Order, for any violation
23 thereof, or for other violations of ORS 675.510 to 675,600 or OAR Chapter 877 not stated herein.

24 6.6 This Order in no way limits or prevents further remedies, sanctions, or actions
25 which may be available to the Board under Oregon law for conduct or actions of Respondent not
26 covered by this Order, or against a party not covered by this Order.

27 6.7 Respondent has fully read this Order and understands it completely. Respondent
28 has consulted with an attorney regarding this Order, and has been fully advised in regards thereto,
or waives any and all rights to consult with an attorney prior to stipulating and agreeing to
issuance of this Order.

6.8 Respondent stipulates to issuance of this Order voluntarily and without any force or duress. Respondent states that no promises or representation not stated herein have been made to induce Respondent to sign and agree to issuance of this Order.

6.9 Respondent understands that Respondent has the right to notice and a contested case hearing under the Administrative Procedures Act (ORS Chapter 183), and fully, finally, and forever waives any and all such rights and any rights to appeal or otherwise challenge this Order.

IT IS SO STIPULATED AND AGREED TO this 19 day of January 2026, by:

SIGNATURE ON FILE

CHIHO SAKAMOTO GUNTON (Respondent)

FINAL ORDER

7.

NOW, THEREFORE, based on the above stipulations and agreement by **CHIHO SAKAMOTO GUNTON**, and pursuant to ORS 183.417(3), 675.540, and 675.595, OAR Chapter 877, and other applicable authority, and based on the specific facts in this case, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that:

8.1 The above stipulations and agreement by Respondent are accepted and incorporated herein by her reference.

8.2 Respondent is immediately placed on Probation as provided in Section 6.3.

DATED, ISSUED, and EFFECTIVE this 24 day of February 2026.



BOARD OF LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS
State of Oregon

SIGNATURE ON FILE

By Ray Miller, Executive Director

SEAL

Date of Mailing: 04.14.2026 MGT