

**State of New Hampshire
NH Board of Mental Health Practice
Concord, New Hampshire 03301**

In the Matter of:
Sara DeValk
LCMHC Lic. #2564

Docket No. 2023-MHP-004

VOLUNTARY PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT NOT TO PRACTICE

The New Hampshire Board of Mental Health Practice (“Board”) granted Sara DeValk (“Respondent”) a license to practice as a clinical mental health counselor on October 21, 2022. Respondent holds a LCMHC license number 2564.

On or about December 2, 2022, the OPLC Division of Enforcement (“Division”) received a complaint alleging inappropriate communications with a former adolescent patient in violation of RSA 330-A:27, II(c), (d), (g), and/or (i) which is considered professional misconduct.

On February 8, 2023, the Board issued an immediate emergency suspension, suspending the Respondent’s license as a clinical mental health counselor pursuant to NH RSA 330-A:30.

Recognizing that professional misconduct allegations are pending against Respondent, the Respondent voluntarily enters into a Voluntary Preliminary Agreement Not to Practice with the Board as follows:

1. I, Sara DeValk, LCMHC, agree not to practice as a clinical mental health counselor, effective upon my signing this Voluntary Preliminary Agreement Not to Practice.
2. I admit to no violations of RSA 330-A:27, or any administrative rules, ethical provisions, or any other laws, statutes, or regulations, adopted by the Board.

3. Understanding that this Voluntary Preliminary Agreement and the restrictions herein shall remain until further order of the Board, I hereby specifically waive any statute of limitations or laches defense, which might then be available, including, but not limited to, those based on RSA 330-A:28 and 29.
4. By signing this *Voluntary* Preliminary Agreement Not to Practice, I hereby specifically waive my right to an emergency hearing pursuant to RSA 541-A:30, III; RSA 330-A:30; and RSA 310-A:1-m, IV.
5. I understand that this *Voluntary* Preliminary Agreement Not to Practice shall remain in place until such time the ongoing investigation into this matter is completed and the adjudicatory process has been completed.
6. In the event that I apply for the renewal of my license while this arrangement is in effect, I voluntarily agree to waive any statutory or administrative time deadlines regarding the Board's final action on such license renewal application. I understand that by waiving such deadlines, the Board's final action on any such license renewal application will be automatically deferred until after the disposition of this Board matter and that my license will not expire while this Preliminary Agreement is in effect.
7. I voluntarily enter into this agreement with the Board and state that no promises or representations have been made to me other than those terms and conditions expressly stated herein.
8. I further understand that this document shall become a permanent part of my file and will be maintained by the Board as a public document upon execution by the Board as a Board Order.

*In the Matter of Sara DeValk, LCMHC
NH Board of Mental Health Practice
Preliminary Agreement Not to Practice*

9. I have had the opportunity to seek and obtain the advice of an attorney of my choosing in connection with the decision to sign this Preliminary Agreement.
10. I am of sound mind and not under the influence of any substance that would impair my judgement at the time I sign this Preliminary Agreement.
11. I understand that my failure to comply with the terms of this Preliminary Agreement Not to Practice shall constitute unlawful practice under RSA Chapter 330-A and may subject me to discipline.

FOR RESPONDENT

Date: 03/15/2023

Sara DeValk
Sara DeValk, Respondent

FOR THE BOARD

This Voluntary Preliminary Agreement Not to Practice is hereby accepted in accordance with the binding terms and conditions set forth above and shall issue as an Order of the Board upon execution by the Board

Date: 3/16/2023

JWebber
(Signature)

Jeannu Webber
Print Name
Authorized Representative of the New
Hampshire Board of Mental Health
Practice

