

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL  
LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION**

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**BOARD OF LICENSING FOR ALCOHOL AND  
OTHER DRUG USE PROFESSIONALS**

**In Re: Dawn Desjardins  
CRSW Lic. #0186**

Docket No.: 2022-ALC-029

**FINAL DECISION AND  
ORDER – 2/9/23**

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**I. ATTENDEES:**

Kelly Luedke, MLADC, Board Chair  
Jessica Carter, CRSW, Board Member  
Joni O'Brien, MLADC, Board Member  
Alexandra Hamel, MLADC, Board Member  
Traci Weber, Administrator  
Tom Pappas, Paralegal OPLC  
Eric Goulet, Investigative Paralegal OPLC Enforcement  
Collin Phillips, Esq., Hearing Counsel  
Elizabeth T. Eaton, Esq., Board Counsel  
Shane D. Goulet, Esq., OPLC Hearings Examiner and Presiding Officer

**II. CASE SUMMARY/PROCEDURAL HISTORY:**

On or about 11/16/20 the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification, Division of Enforcement ("OPLC Enforcement) received, on behalf of the Board of Licensing for Alcohol and Drug Use Professionals ("Board"), a complaint that Dawn Desjardins, ("Licensee"), while working as a CRSW for the Hope for NH Recovery Team in Manchester New Hampshire, had allegedly left her position to pursue a sexual and/or romantic relations with a client/member. After an investigation, the Board voted on 11/10/22 to commence an adjudicative/disciplinary proceeding in this matter which was held on 2/9/23 at 1:00 PM.

**III. SUMMARY OF THE EVIDENCE:**

The Board received the following evidence pursuant to RSA 541-A:33 and Rule 212.03:

A. Exhibits were submitted by Hearing Counsel, numbered as follows:

1. Report of Investigation
2. Complaint
3. Respondent's Response to Complaint
4. Respondents Letter of Resignation
5. Investigator Goulet's Request for Information 1
6. Respondent's Response to Investigator Goulet #1
7. Interview Report- Keith Howard
8. Respondent's Response to Investigator Goulet #2

B. Exhibits were submitted by Licensee, designated as follows:

- A. Marriage Certificate (**SEALED**)
- B. Birth Certificate (**SEALED**)

C. Testimony was received from:

1. Investigator Goulet
2. Dawn Desjardins
3. Respondent's Husband (hereinafter "Member") Testimony received in Non-Public, and minutes were (**SEALED**) pursuant to 91-A: 3.

**IV. CONDUCT OF THE HEARING AND EVIDENCE PRESENTED:**

The Respondent appeared in person. Pursuant to Rule 212.01, Hearing Counsel has the burden of proving its case by a preponderance of the evidence. The Presiding Officer admitted Hearing Counsel's (8) Exhibits by agreement of the parties. The Respondent submitted (2) Exhibits. All Exhibits were admitted without objection. Hearing Counsel proceeded by a written offer of proof. The Respondent and her husband ("Member") testified in response. The testimony of the Respondent's husband was conducted in a non-public session pursuant to 91-A:3.

### **Written Offer of Proof**

OPLC Investigator Paralegal Eric Goulet was sworn in under oath and Hearing Counsel, Attorney Phillips, submitted his case through a written offer of proof on Eric Goulet's behalf. Hearing Counsel stated that from 5/20/19 to 6/30/21 the Licensee was a licensed CRSW. From 2019 through 11/9/20 the Respondent worked as a CRSW at Hope for NH Recovery facility ("Hope"). "Member" was a member at Hope during the Respondent's tenure at the facility. A member at Hope is equivalent to a client. The Respondent's responsibilities as a CRSW included working and interacting with Hope members which included "Member". On 11/09/2020, Respondent resigned from her position as a CRSW at Hope. In November of 2020 "Member" left Hope. After resigning on 11/09/2020, Respondent pursued a romantic relationship with "Member". Respondent and Member began having sexual relations on or about December of 2020. The Respondent and "Member" are now married and have a child together. The Respondent cooperated with the investigation. *See Proposed Findings of Fact (Paragraphs 1-12), which are incorporated by reference herein.* The Respondent had no questions for Investigator Goulet.

### **Dawn Desjardins, Licensee**

Dawn Desjardins (n/k/a Dawn Sanborn) was sworn in and testified regarding her work at Hope and her relationship with "Member". She testified that she received training to be a CRSW from Brett Smith and Annie Day in Manchester, N.H. She recalled her training advised that if she were to ever develop feelings for a client then she should report those feelings to her direct supervisor. She testified that this is exactly what she did when she realized she maintained feelings for "Member". The Respondent reported that she worked at Hope part-time while further pursuing her education. The Respondent testified that she never cited romantic feelings for "Member" as the sole reason she resigned her position and that a variety of factors in her life contributed to that decision. She further stressed she had not treated "Member" differently than any other client while she worked at Hope; and that their relationship did not begin until weeks after she had left Hope.

The Respondent was apologetic and claimed she had no idea that she had broken any law or rule. She explained that she discovered there was an issue only after having been notified that a complaint had been submitted against her by her former supervisor Kate Simenta.

The Respondent testified over Hearing Counsel's objection that since leaving Hope they had reached out to her to return to work at their facility.

**Licensee's husband ("Member")**

"Member" testified in a non-public session regarding the matters outlined in the "Issues Presented" section of the Notice of Hearing for this matter.

**V. DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS OF FACTS / CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

After reviewing all the evidence, accounting for the presentation and demeanor of all the witnesses, and drawing all reasonable inferences therefrom the Board finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the Respondent has committed misconduct as defined RSA 330-C:27, III (a) (see, i.e., Rule 502.01(c)(11)(e)) and RSA 330-C:27, III(d). Hearing Counsel's Proposed Finding's of Fact are not in dispute. While the Board appreciates the Respondent's honesty and cooperation, her conduct was a blatant violation of the Board's rules and laws.

**VI. CONCLUSION AND DECISION:**

Wherefore the Respondent is publicly **CENSURED** pursuant to RSA 330-C:27, IV(c). The Board holds the relationship between provider and client to be of paramount importance. The Board finds that the Respondent's conduct was hazardous, improper, and unethical in the context of her licensed profession.

DATED: 3/16/2023

\_\_\_\_\_/s/ Shane D. Goulet, Esq.\_\_\_\_\_  
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