

COMPLAINT NO. 2023-00439

IN THE MATTER OF

MELISSA STRINGER, LPC

§ BEFORE THE TEXAS BEHAVIORAL
§ HEALTH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
§
§ THE TEXAS STATE BOARD
§ OF EXAMINERS OF
§ PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

AGREED ORDER

Pursuant to its authority under §507.305 of the Texas Occupations Code, §2001.056 of the Government Code, and 22 Texas Administrative Code §884.12(e), the Executive Director for the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council ("Council") hereby approves, ratifies, and enters this Agreed Order with the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order of Council, which have been approved and accepted by **Melissa Stringer, LPC** ("Respondent") and which constitutes a full settlement and compromise of the complaint(s) currently pending against Respondent before the Council in the above-referenced and numbered matter(s).

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent is licensed as a licensed professional counselor (#79533) in the State of Texas and is, therefore, subject to the jurisdiction of the Council.
2. Respondent continued to practice with an expired license from September 30th, 2022, until June 8th, 2023.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Respondent voluntarily received a license from the Council and, therefore, is bound by the provisions of Chapters 503 and 507 of the Texas Occupations Code and the Rules of the Council, 22 Texas Administrative Code Parts 30 and 41.
2. Violation of the Council's Rules is unprofessional conduct and constitutes grounds for the imposition of sanctions under §§503.401, 507.301, and 507.351 of the Texas Occupations Code.
3. Based on the above Findings of Fact, the Council finds that Respondent violated Council Rules §882.21 (c) and §882.23 (a) and (c).
4. This Agreed Order is a Settlement Agreement under the Texas Rules of Evidence and is not admissible for the purposes of civil litigation. By entering into this Agreed Order, Respondent does not admit the foregoing Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law, but agrees to resolve this matter to avoid the expense and uncertainty of further proceedings.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED THAT:

1. Respondent is assessed and shall pay, within thirty (30) days of the date this order is ratified, an administrative penalty in the total amount of \$500.00; of which \$400.00 represents administrative costs and \$100.00 represents an administrative penalty.
2. Respondent's license is hereby REPRIMANDED.
7. If before all of the terms, conditions, and restrictions of this order are complete Respondent applies, qualifies, and is granted an upgraded license, then all of the same terms, conditions, and restrictions of this order shall apply to the upgraded license without the need of entering a new order against the upgraded license.

WARNING

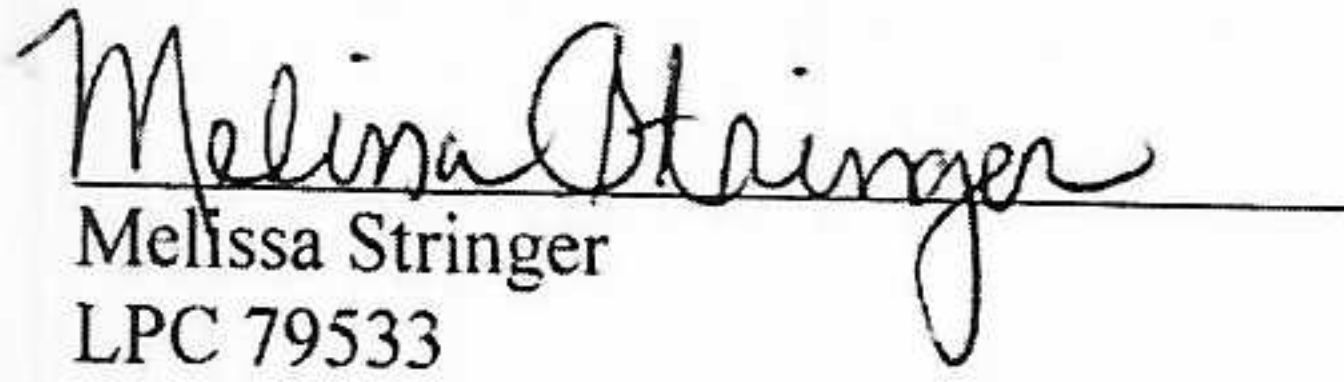
RESPONDENT'S FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ONE OR MORE TERMS OF THIS ORDER MAY CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF 22 TEXAS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE §884.55 REQUIRING FURTHER DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

WAIVERS

On the underlying investigative file, Respondent has waived his or her right to an informal settlement conference, a formal hearing before an Administrative Law Judge at the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH), and judicial review pursuant to Texas Government Code Chapter 2001, in exchange for the conditions set out in this Agreed Order.

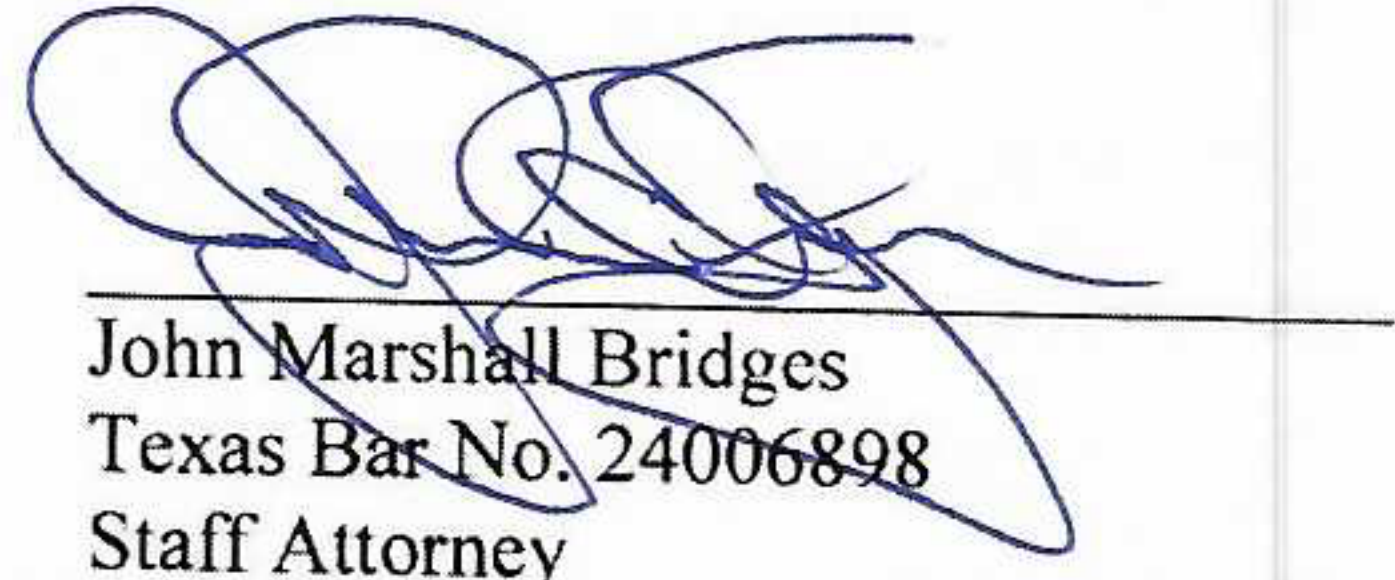
THE RESPONDENT, BY SIGNING THIS ORDER, AGREES TO ITS TERMS, ACKNOWLEDGES UNDERSTANDING OF THE FORMAL NOTICES, FINDINGS OF FACT, AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW SET FORTH HEREIN AND COVENANTS TO SATISFACTORILY COMPLY WITH THE MANDATES OF THIS ORDER IN A TIMELY MANNER. RESPONDENT FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGES AND AGREES THAT HE OR SHE HAS AGREED TO THIS ORDER UPON THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF COUNSEL, OR THAT HE OR SHE HAS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE THIS ORDER REVIEWED BY COUNSEL OF HIS OR HER CHOICE.

FOR THE RESPONDENT:


Melissa Stringer
LPC 79533


DATE SIGNED: 02/26/2025

FOR THE STAFF OF THE COUNCIL:


John Marshall Bridges
Texas Bar No. 24006898
Staff Attorney
Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council
1801 Congress Ave, Suite 7.300
Austin, TX 78701

DATE SIGNED: 2/27/2025

APPROVED, RATIFIED, AND ENTERED THIS 27th DAY OF February, 2025.


Darrel Spinks
Executive Director
Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council