

**BEFORE THE  
BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. AS-2005-961

KARAH ANN BELCZAK  
13389 Savanna  
Tustin, CA 92782

Associate Clinical Social Worker Registration  
No. ASW 18124

Respondent.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

The attached Stipulated Surrender of Registration and Order is hereby adopted by the Board of Behavioral Sciences, Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in this matter.

This Decision shall become effective on October 7, 2007.

It is so ORDERED September 7, 2007.



FOR THE BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

1 EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General  
of the State of California  
2 MARGARET A. LAFKO  
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9 Attorneys for Complainant

10 **BEFORE THE**  
**BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**  
11 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

12 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:  
13 KARAH ANN BELCZAK  
13389 Savanna  
14 Tustin, CA 92782  
15 Associate Clinical Social Worker Registration  
No. ASW 18124  
16  
17 Respondent.

Case No. AS-2005-961

**STIPULATED SURRENDER OF  
REGISTRATION AND ORDER**

18 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties in this  
19 proceeding that the following matters are true:

20 PARTIES

21 1. Paul Riches (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of the Board of Behavioral  
22 Sciences. He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in this matter  
23 by Edmund G. Brown Jr., Attorney General of the State of California, by Susan Fitzgerald,  
24 Deputy Attorney General.

25 2. Karah Ann Belczak (Respondent) is representing herself in this proceeding and  
26 has chosen not to exercise her right to be represented by counsel.

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1 she will have completed her criminal probation and is more financially secure.

2 9. Respondent fully understands that when the Board adopts her registration  
3 surrender, Respondent will no longer be permitted to practice as an associate clinical social  
4 worker in California. Respondent further understands that her registration surrender, upon  
5 adoption, shall be considered to be a disciplinary action and shall become a part of Respondent's  
6 license history with the Board.

7 9. The Respondent understands and agrees that with the adoption by the Board of her  
8 registration surrender, Respondent may not petition the Board for reinstatement of the  
9 surrendered registration.

10 10. Should Respondent at any time after this surrender ever reapply to the Board for  
11 registration or licensure of any kind, Respondent must meet all current requirements for  
12 registration or licensure including, but not limited to, filing a current application, meeting all  
13 current educational requirements, and taking and passing any and all examinations required of  
14 new applicants.

15 11. Respondent understands and agrees that she shall not be permitted to apply for a  
16 new registration or license from the Board for a period of three (3) years from the effective date  
17 of the decision in this case.

18 12. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation she enables the Board to  
19 issue an order accepting the surrender of her associate clinical social worker registration without  
20 further process.

21 CONTINGENCY

22 13. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Board of Behavioral Sciences.  
23 Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board of  
24 Behavioral Sciences may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and  
25 settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent. By signing the stipulation,  
26 Respondent understands and agrees that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek to rescind  
27 the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt  
28 this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Surrender and Disciplinary Order shall

1 be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action  
2 between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having  
3 considered this matter.

4 OTHER MATTERS

5 14. There are no costs of investigation in this matter, but costs of enforcement in the  
6 form of Attorney General billing to the agency total to \$1,817.00 through April 15, 2007. Cost  
7 recovery of this amount shall be deferred until such time, if ever, that Respondent applies to the  
8 Board for further registration or licensure.

9 15. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Surrender  
10 and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and  
11 effect as the originals.

12 16. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree  
13 that the (Board) may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following  
14 Order:

15 ORDER

16 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Associate Clinical Social Worker Registration No.  
17 ASW 18124, issued to Respondent Karah Ann Belczak is surrendered and accepted by the Board  
18 of Behavioral Sciences.

19 A. The surrender of Respondent's associate clinical social worker registration and  
20 the acceptance of the surrendered registration by the Board shall constitute the imposition of  
21 discipline against Respondent. This stipulation constitutes a record of the discipline and shall  
22 become a part of Respondent's license history with the Board.

23 B. Respondent shall lose all rights and privileges as an associate clinical social  
24 worker in California as of the effective date of the Board's Decision and Order.

25 C. Respondent shall cause to be delivered to the Board her registration certificate on  
26 or before the effective date of the Decision and Order.

27 D. If Respondent ever applies for a license or registration to the Board, the Board  
28 shall treat it as a new application for permit, registration or licensure. Respondent must comply

1 with all the laws, regulations and procedures for such licensure in effect at the time the  
2 application or petition is filed.

3 E. Respondent shall not apply for new registration or licensure of any kind from the  
4 Board until three (3) years from the effective date of the decision in this case.

5 F. Respondent shall pay the Board its costs of investigation and enforcement in the  
6 amount of \$1,817.00 before issuance of a new or reinstated registration or license or have made  
7 arrangement with the Board or its designee before such issuance for a scheduled payment plan  
8 for this amount.

9 ACCEPTANCE

10 I have carefully read the Stipulated Surrender of Registration and Order. I understand the  
11 stipulation and the effect it will have on my Associate Clinical Social Worker registration. I  
12 enter into this Stipulated Surrender of Registration and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and  
13 intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Behavioral  
14 Sciences.

15 DATED: MAY 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

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18 KARAH ANN BELCZAK  
Respondent

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ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of Registration and Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board of Behavioral Sciences of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

DATED: May 14, 2007.

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General  
of the State of California

MARGARET A. LAFKO  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SUSAN FITZGERALD  
Deputy Attorney General

Attorneys for Complainant

**Exhibit A**

**Accusation No. AS-2005-961**

1 EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General  
of the State of California  
2 LINDA K. SCHNEIDER  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
3 SHERRY L. LEDAKIS, State Bar No. 131767  
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9 Attorneys for Complainant

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13 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. AS-2005-961

14 KARAH ANN BELCZAK  
13389 Savanna  
15 Tustin, CA 92782

**ACCUSATION**

16 Associate Clinical Social Worker  
Registration No. ASW 18124

17 Respondent.  
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19 Complainant Alleges:

20 PARTIES

- 21 1. Paul Riches, Complainant, brings this Accusation solely in his official  
22 capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Behavioral Sciences.
- 23 2. On or about March 23, 2005, the Board issued Associate Clinical Social  
24 Worker registration number ASW 18124 to Karah Ann Belczak, Respondent. The Associate  
25 Clinical Social Worker registration was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges  
26 brought herein and will expire on March 31, 2008, unless renewed.

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1 Unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to:

2 (a) The conviction of a crime substantially related to the qualifications,  
3 functions, or duties of a licensee or registrant under this chapter. The record of  
4 conviction shall be conclusive evidence only of the fact that the conviction  
5 occurred. The board may inquire into the circumstances surrounding the  
6 commission of the crime in order to fix the degree of discipline or to determine if  
7 the conviction is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a  
8 licensee or registrant under this chapter. A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction  
9 following a plea of nolo contendere made to a charge substantially related to the  
10 qualifications, functions, or duties of a licensee or registrant under this chapter is a  
11 conviction within the meaning of this section. The board may order any license or  
12 registration suspended or revoked, or may decline to issue a license or registration  
13 when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been  
14 affirmed on appeal, or, when an order granting probation is made suspending the  
15 imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under Section 1203.4 of  
16 the Penal Code allowing the person to withdraw a plea of guilty and enter a plea  
17 of not guilty, or setting aside the verdict of guilty, or dismissing the accusation,  
18 information, or indictment.

19 ...

20 (c) Administering to himself or herself any controlled substance or using  
21 any of the dangerous drugs specified in Section 4022 or any alcoholic beverage to  
22 the extent, or in a manner, as to be dangerous or injurious to the person applying  
23 for a registration or license or holding a registration or license under this chapter,  
24 or to any other person, or to the public, or, to the extent that the use impairs the  
25 ability of the person applying for or holding a registration or license to conduct  
26 with safety to the public the practice authorized by the registration or license, or  
27 the conviction of more than one misdemeanor or any felony involving the use,  
28 consumption, or self-administration of any of the substances referred to in this  
subdivision, or any combination thereof. The board shall deny an application for a  
registration or license or revoke the license or registration of any person who uses  
or offers to use drugs in the course of performing clinical social work. This  
provision does not apply to any person also licensed as a physician and surgeon  
under Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 2000) or the Osteopathic Act who  
lawfully prescribes drugs to a patient under his or her care.

8. Section 4996.11 of the Code states:

The board may suspend or revoke the license of any person who is guilty  
on the grounds set forth in Section 4992.3. The proceedings for the suspension or  
revocation of licenses under this article shall be conducted in accordance with  
Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of  
the Government Code, and the board shall have all the powers granted in that  
chapter.

9. Section 125.3 of the Code states in part:

(a) Except as otherwise provided by law, in any order issued in resolution  
of a disciplinary proceeding before any board within the department or before the  
Osteopathic Medical Board, upon request of the entity bringing the proceeding  
may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have  
committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed  
the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

1 FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

2 (April 13, 2006 Criminal Conviction - Driving Under the Influence  
3 of Alcohol on June 11, 2005)

4 10. Grounds exist to revoke Respondent's registration under sections 490,  
5 493, 4992.3(a) for a criminal conviction that is substantially related to her qualifications as a  
6 Registered Associate Clinical Social Worker. On April 13, 2006, in the Superior Court for the  
7 County of Orange, in a case entitled *People v. Karah Ann Belczak*, (Sup. Ct. County of Orange,  
8 2005, Case No. 055MO4291) respondent pled guilty to a violation of Vehicle Code section  
9 23152(b), driving with a blood alcohol level of .22, with one prior conviction from 2002.

10 11. On June 11, 2005, witness J.J. was driving behind a Toyota 4-Runner on  
11 SR-74. The Toyota was weaving so badly that it almost overturned a couple of times. J.J.  
12 followed the Toyota for about ten minutes and then called 911. As he was calling 911 the Toyota  
13 made an abrupt U-turn and he saw a blond woman driving.

14 12. On June 11, 2005, witness A.B. was driving from Lake Elsinore,  
15 California to San Juan Capistrano traveling westbound on SR-74. She was following behind a  
16 Toyota 4-Runner. She watched the 4-Runner almost collide head-on with traffic traveling  
17 eastbound on SR-74. The Toyota continually swerved over the painted divider into oncoming  
18 traffic. The on-coming vehicles would have to swerve or brake sharply to avoid a head-on  
19 collision. A.B. called 911. A few minutes later an police officer pulled over the Toyota. As  
20 A.B. drove past the 4-Runner, she saw a blond woman in the driver's seat.

21 13. On June 11, 2005, at approximately 10:30 a.m. California Highway Patrol  
22 Officer A. Johnson was on patrol traveling eastbound on SR-74 when he observed a motorcycle  
23 traveling at about 40 MPH with the driver waiving his left arm. A white Toyota 4-Runner was  
24 behind the motorcycle. The officer watched the 4-Runner swerving left to right and driving  
25 partially on the shoulder of the road. Officer A. Johnson turned around and arrived at the  
26 location where two other officers had stopped respondent.

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1 PRAYER

2 WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein  
3 alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board issue a decision:

4 1. Revoking or suspending Associate Clinical Social Worker Registration  
5 No. ASW 18124, issued to Karah Ann Belczak.

6 2. Ordering Karah Ann Belczak to pay the Board the reasonable costs of the  
7 investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section  
8 125.3; and

9 3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

10 DATED: January 24, 2007

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13 PAUL RICHES, EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
14 BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES  
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