

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS  
APPOINTED BY  
THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS**

<b>IN THE MATTER OF</b>	§	
<b>DEANNA MARIE JEFFERSON SMITH</b>	§	<b>CAUSE NO. 65569</b>
<b>STATE BAR CARD NO. 24046152</b>	§	

**JUDGMENT OF SUSPENSION**

On the 30th day of July, 2021, the above-styled and numbered disciplinary action was called for hearing before the Board of Disciplinary Appeals. Petitioner appeared by attorney and announced ready. Respondent, Deanna Marie Jefferson Smith, appeared in person. All questions of fact and all matters of law were submitted to the Board of Disciplinary Appeals for determination. Having considered the pleadings on file, having received evidence, and having heard the argument of counsel, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals is of the opinion that Petitioner is entitled to entry of the following findings and orders:

**Findings of Fact.** The Board of Disciplinary Appeals finds that:

- (1) Respondent, Deanna Marie Jefferson Smith, State Bar Card Number 24046152, is licensed and authorized to practice law in the State of Texas by the Supreme Court of Texas.
- (2) On or about February 6, 2018, Respondent was charged by Indictment in Cause No. 3:18-CR-068-K, styled *United States of America v. Alicia Belfrey-Farley (01) Deanna Jefferson Smith (02)*, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division, with:

Count One False Statements Relating to Health Care Matters, and Aiding and Abetting in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1035(a)(2) and 2. On or about December 16, 2013, in the Northern District of Texas, defendant Alicia Belfrey-Farley, aided and abetted by defendant Deanna Jefferson Smith, knowingly and willfully made and used a materially false writing and document, specifically, a Standard Form (SF) 2809 Health Benefits Election Form directed to the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program, knowing the same to contain materially false, fictitious, and fraudulent statements and entries, specifically, the representation of B.S. (minor #1), Billy Smith, B.S. (minor #2), B.S. (minor #3), and Deanna Smith as family

members of Alicia Belfrey-Farley, in connection with the delivery of and payment for health care benefits, items, and services involving the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program, a health care benefit program as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 24(b), in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1035(a)(2) and 2.

- (3) On or about March 2, 2020, a Plea Agreement was entered in Cause No. 3:18-CR-00068-K, styled *United States of America v. Deanna Jefferson Smith*, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division, wherein the defendant agreed to plead guilty to Count One of a subsequently filed Information, charging a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 669, that is, Theft in Connection with Health Care. The Government agreed to dismiss all remaining counts at the time of sentencing. The defendant agreed to make full restitution of the tax loss and agreed to pay to the United States District Clerk a special assessment in the amount of one-hundred dollars (\$100.00) per count of conviction.
- (4) On or about March 3, 2020, an Information was entered in Cause No. 3:18-CR-00068-K, styled *United States of America v. Deanna Jefferson Smith*, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division, alleging that on or about September 7, 2015, in the Northern District of Texas, Deanna Jefferson Smith, the defendant, knowingly and willfully stole and converted without authority to the use of B.S., a minor, who was not the rightful owner, payment for a certain medical service from Neighbors Emergency Center, the property of the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program, a health care benefit program as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 24(b), in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 669.
- (5) On or about September 30, 2020, a Judgment in a Criminal Case was entered in Cause No. 3:18-CR-00068-K, styled *United States of America v. Deanna Jefferson Smith*, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division, wherein Respondent pleaded guilty to “One Count Superseding Misdemeanor Information,” 18 U.S.C. § 669, Theft or Embezzlement in Connection with Health Care. The defendant was sentenced to probation for a term of two (2) years. Respondent was further ordered to pay penalties of an assessment in the amount of \$25.00.
- (6) Respondent, Deanna Marie Jefferson Smith, is the same person as the Deanna Jefferson Smith who is the subject of the Judgment described above.

**Conclusions of Law.** Based upon the foregoing findings of fact, the Board of Disciplinary

Appeals makes the following conclusions of law:

- (1) This Board has jurisdiction to hear and determine this matter. TEX. R. DISCIPLINARY P. 7.08(G).
- (2) Respondent, Deanna Marie Jefferson Smith, has been convicted for purposes of TRDP 8.04 of an Intentional Crime as defined by TRDP 1.06(V). Such crime is as well a Serious Crime as defined by TRDP 1.06(GG).
- (3) The conviction is final, and compulsory discipline is mandatory. TRDP 8.05.
- (4) An attorney may be disciplined as a result of the underlying facts as well as subject to compulsory discipline upon conviction or probation. TRDP 8.01.
- (5) Respondent's sentence was fully probated. Thus, the Board had discretion pursuant to TRDP 8.05 and 8.06 to enter an order of disbarment or suspend Respondent's license for the duration of the term of probation. *In re Caballero*, 272 S.W.3d 595, 601 (Tex. 2008).
- (5) The inquiry as to whether to disbar or suspend is governed by the factors expressed by the Board in *In re Isassi*, BODA Case No. 57699 (2017).
- (6) Based on the relevant factors and the evidence and argument submitted by the parties, the Board determines that suspension is the appropriate sanction.

It is, accordingly, **ORDERED**, **ADJUDGED**, and **DECREEED** that Respondent, Deanna Marie Jefferson Smith, State Bar Card No. 24046152, be and hereby is actively SUSPENDED from the practice of law in the State of Texas effective immediately upon entry of this judgment and ending September 29, 2022.

It is further **ORDERED**, **ADJUDGED**, and **DECREEED** that during said suspension, Respondent, Deanna Marie Jefferson Smith, is prohibited from practicing law in Texas, holding herself out as an attorney at law, performing any legal services for others, accepting any fee directly or indirectly for legal services, appearing as counsel or in any representative capacity in any proceeding in any Texas court or before any administrative body, or holding herself out to others or using her name, in any manner, in conjunction with the words "attorney," "counselor," or "lawyer."

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Deanna Marie Jefferson Smith, shall immediately notify each of her current clients, if any, in writing of this suspension. In addition to such notification, Respondent is **ORDERED** to return any files, papers, unearned monies, and other property belonging to clients and former clients in the Respondent's possession to the respective clients or former clients or to another attorney at the client's or former client's request. Respondent is further **ORDERED** to file with the State Bar of Texas, Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701), within thirty (30) days of the signing of this judgment, an affidavit stating that all current clients have been notified of Respondent's suspension and that all files, papers, monies, and other property belonging to all clients and former clients have been returned as ordered herein.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Deanna Marie Jefferson Smith, shall, on or before thirty (30) days from the signing of this judgment, notify in writing each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, administrative judge or officer, and chief justice of each and every court or tribunal in which Respondent has any matter pending of the terms of this judgment, the style and cause number of the pending matter(s), and the name, address, and telephone number of the client(s) Respondent is representing. Respondent is further **ORDERED** to file with the State Bar of Texas, Chief Disciplinary Counsel's Office, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487 (1414 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701) within thirty (30) days of the signing of this judgment, an affidavit stating either (a) that each and every justice of the peace, judge, magistrate, administrative judge or officer, and chief justice of each and every court or tribunal in which Respondent has any legal matter pending has received written notice of the terms of this judgment, or (b) that Respondent has no legal matters pending in any court or tribunal.

It is further **ORDERED** that Respondent, Deanna Marie Jefferson Smith, immediately surrender her Texas law license and permanent State Bar Card, if not already surrendered, to the

*Judgment of Suspension*

*Deanna Marie Jefferson Smith*

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Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, Texas 78711, for transmittal to the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Texas.

It is further **ORDERED** that a certified copy of the Petition for Compulsory Discipline on file herein, along with a copy of this Judgment, be sent to the Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, Texas 78711.

Signed this 30<sup>TH</sup> day of July, 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin H.", is written over a horizontal line.

VICE CHAIR PRESIDING  
BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS