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FILED

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NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD
OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS

L.D.A.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEP'T OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS
DOCKET NO.

IN THE MATTER OF THE REVOCATION:
OF LICENSE OF
RONALD C. GALINSKY, Ed.D.
LICENSE NO. 1244
TO PRACTICE PSYCHOLOGY
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Administrative Action
FINAL ORDER

This matter was presented to the State Board of Psychological Examiners by the Attorney General of New Jersey, by Joan D. Gelber, Deputy Attorney General on inquiry in the professional conduct of Ronald C. Galinsky, Ed.D. Dr. Galinsky has maintained an office¹ at 3 South Haddon Ave., P.O. Box 2027, Haddonfield, New Jersey 08033-0701. He is licensed to practice psychology in Pennsylvania. He is represented by Andrew Karcich, Esq. and by Allan M. Tepper, J.D., Psy.D.² The Board inquiry involved three consumer complaints, as follows:

The first complaint was by Mrs. K.C. who alleges that during treatment in 1986-87, respondent commenced a sexual relationship

¹ The office has been conducted under the name of Ronald C. Galinsky, Ed.D. and Associates, P.A., but Dr. Galinsky does not, in fact, have associates. He has indicated that the two other professionals who utilize that office merely rent space therein.

² Mr. Tepper is an attorney admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar. He was admitted pro hac vice by Board Order filed July 16, 1993.

with her which continued after nominal termination of therapy, and into 1990. Respondent had maintained no patient records for K.C. The patient also alleges inducement to insurance fraud regarding billing for professional services to her. Extensive investigation was conducted on this matter. Said conduct would be deemed clearly unethical and gross malpractice, and would constitute violation of N.J.A.C. 13:42-4.1(a)(1)(xvi)(1) and (xvii)(4); 13:42-4.1(xv)(5); N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b), (c) and (e) and 45:14B-14, warranting revocation of license.

The second complaint was by Ms N.Y. who alleges that while she was a patient of respondent's during 1984-86, respondent sat with her on the therapy couch, and engaged in conduct which she described in detail. Respondent had maintained no patient records for N.Y. Respondent has acknowledged certain physical contact on the therapy couch with patient N.Y., but denies that it was of a sexual nature. The conduct alleged would, if proven at trial, clearly be found to be unethical sexual contact with a patient and would independently warrant revocation of license, as a violation of N.J.A.C. 13:42-4.1(a)(1)(xvi)(1) and (xvii)(4); 13:42-4.1(xv)(5)³ and N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b), (c) and (e) and 45:14B-14.

The third complaint was by Mr. M.S., who sought Board review of a custody evaluation performed regarding his son M.S. by respondent in 1991-92. The complaint was precipitated by the

³ The Board's rules are currently being recodified. All rule references herein are to citations applicable at the time of the cited conduct.

sending of a letter by respondent in June 1992, at the request of the attorney representing the child's mother, directly to a judge of the Family Part of Superior Court. In said letter, respondent made derogatory statements about the father and urged that custody remain with the mother, although respondent had had no recent substantive contact with the child sufficient to warrant the content of the letter and no recent contact with the father to justify the strong position taken. Respondent has no notes on the case sufficient to constitute a patient record. Although Respondent has denied any improper conduct, the Board would deem the conduct to be negligent and opportunistic, in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:42-4.1(a)1(ix) and 13:42-4.1(a)1(xvi)(2) and N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b) and (d).

In consideration of the agreement by the Board and the Attorney General to forbear from litigation as to all three matters, Respondent has offered to enter into a settlement as set forth herein.

With regard to K.C., Respondent denies insurance fraud but now acknowledges that he did engage in significant personal financial transactions with her, and did in fact engage in a sexual relationship with a current patient. He has offered to surrender his professional license and to reimburse all fees paid. With regard to N.Y., Respondent has admitted certain conduct but denied other aspects; nevertheless, in the interests of amicable resolution of this portion of the inquiry, Respondent has volunteered to repay to Medicaid all fees paid. With regard to the M.S. matter, Respondent chooses to neither admit nor deny

the factual and legal allegations. He has offered to pay the costs of the entire investigation. He has represented that, as of September 10, 1993, he has accepted no new patients; is preparing termination of treatment of certain current patients and shall make referrals of his remaining patients.

The Board has considered all of the above matters, and has taken into account Respondent's acknowledgment of certain of the conduct as set forth above and the proposed consequences. For good cause shown,

IT IS, ON THIS 18th DAY OF October 1993

ORDERED:

1. Respondent shall, as of September 10, 1993, nunc pro tunc, accept no new patients.

2. Respondent shall promptly provide to the Board a list of all current patients (by first name and initial of surname only), indicating diagnosis, duration of treatment and frequency of sessions to date. Respondent shall arrange an orderly termination of treatment or referral of all such current patients, which shall be completed no later than October 31, 1993. For good cause shown by Respondent with regard to any individual patient, the Board will permit termination to be completed on, but no later than, November 30, 1993. For all current patients, Respondent shall make available to the patients or to subsequent treating therapists, his patient records (if any) in accordance with Board rule.

3. Respondent shall reimburse Medicaid the sum of \$2,594.00

4. Respondent shall reimburse Mrs. K.C. or her third party

payor, as their respective interests shall appear, the sum of \$3,000.00.

5. Respondent shall reimburse the State Board of Psychological Examiners the sum of \$7,244.99 in investigative costs.

6. In the event each of the required sums set forth in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 is not paid within the time stated, the Board shall file a Certificate of Debt in accordance with N.J.S.A. 45:1-24.

7. As to items 3,4 and 5, Respondent may petition the Board to permit regular installments of no less than \$500 per month commencing January 1, 1994, with interest calculated in accordance with R. of Court 4:42-11. The debts shall be satisfied in the order listed. Respondent shall submit a confidential list of all assets and liabilities as of January 1, 1993 and as of the date of entry of this Order. If any monthly installment is thereafter delivered to the Board office after the 10th day of the month in which it is due and owing, it shall be accompanied by a late fee in the amount of 10% of the past due payment. In the event that any payment on any of the debts is not received as set forth above, the entire remaining balance shall become due and owing.

8. The surrender of license of Ronald C. Galinsky, Ed.D. to practice psychology in the State of New Jersey shall be accepted and is deemed a revocation.

9. The Disciplinary Guidelines attached hereto are incorporated in this Order.

10. In the event Respondent shall ever seek reinstatement of license in this State, he shall submit a petition to the Board providing the following information: (a) a comprehensive report from a qualified licensed mental health care professional describing the regular course of psychotherapy in which Respondent has participated since the date of this Order, including diagnosis, duration and frequency of treatment, progress assessment and prognosis; and (b) a full account of all continuing professional education obtained since the entry of the Order. Prior to submitting the petition for reinstatement, Respondent shall submit to a psychological examination/assessment, at his expense, by a Board-approved psychologist, with a copy of the report to be provided to him. Respondent shall appear, on notice, before a Committee of the Board to discuss his status. In the event that the Board finds the public interest adequately met, the Board shall consider such terms as may be appropriate on which to condition any reinstatement. No such petition shall be considered earlier than January 1996.

This Order is effective upon entry, except that limited professional practice may continue as set forth herein, provided that the license shall be surrendered on or before October 31 or

November 30, 1993, as determined by written Board action on paragraph 2. above.

STATE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS

By: *Jeffrey H. Tindall*
Jeffrey H. Tindall, Ph.D., Chair

I have read and understood the terms of the within Order and I consent to abide by them.

Ronald E. Galinsky
Ronald E. Galinsky, Ed.D.

Andrew J. Karcich
Andrew J. Karcich, Esq.
Counsel for Dr. Galinsky