

FILED BY  
Leslie Aronson  
Executive Director  
JST  
5/26/99

PETER VERNIERO  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

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IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION:  
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF: Administrative Action  
:  
JENNIFER KOEGEL, LCSW :  
:  
To Practice Social Work : CONSENT ORDER  
In the State of New Jersey :  
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This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Social Work Examiners (hereinafter "the Board") upon receipt of complaints from Jennifer Koegel's employer, St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center and her former client, N.E. Both complaints alleged that Jennifer Koegel, LCSW (hereinafter "respondent") was employed by St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in the capacity of a therapist for the Starlight MICA Program which is a substance abuse rehabilitation program. After N.E. entered the Starlight Program in the summer of 1996, respondent became his therapist. In March 1997, respondent and N.E. began a sexual relationship while respondent still acted as the therapist for N.E. A number of months later, N.E. moved into the respondent's residence where he lived until August 1998. N.E. graduated from the Starlight Program in February 1998. When the relationship

between respondent and N.E. ended in August 1998, N.E. reported it to respondent's employer. Respondent was immediately suspended on August 26, 1998. Based upon the investigation by the employer and the admission to the relationship by respondent, she was terminated on September 4, 1998.

On December 16, 1998, respondent appeared with counsel Paul Strawinski, Esq. at an investigative inquiry into the matter held by the Board. Respondent acknowledged that she had a sexual relationship with N.E. at the time she was his therapist and after the termination of therapy. Having reviewed the entire record, including the testimony of respondent at the investigative inquiry, it appears to the Board that respondent's sexual relationship with N.E. during the time that she was his therapist and thereafter violates N.J.A.C. 13:44G-10.7(c), (f), (g) and (i), constituting conduct pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(c), (d) and (e).

It appearing that respondent desires to resolve this matter without recourse to formal proceedings and for good cause shown:

IT IS ON THIS <sup>26<sup>th</sup></sup> DAY OF <sup>May</sup> 1999,  
HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. Respondent's license to practice social work in the State of New Jersey is hereby suspended for a period of five years commencing September 4, 1998, which date is based upon her attached certification, fully incorporated herein, that since her termination from employment on September 4, 1998, she has not

engaged in any employment or practice, paid or unpaid, which required her licensure as an LCSW or any other social work licensure or certification. The first two years of the suspension shall be active, and the remaining three years shall be stayed and shall serve as a period of probation conditioned upon full compliance with the terms of the within Consent Order and the statutes and regulations of the State of New Jersey governing the practice of social work.

2. Upon respondent's signing of the within Consent Order, respondent shall immediately return by registered mail her New Jersey license to Leslie Aronson, Executive Director, State Board of Social Work Examiners, 124 Halsey Street, Sixth Floor, Newark, New Jersey 07101.

3. The active suspension of respondent's license to practice social work means that respondent shall not hold herself out as a social worker or practice social work in this State or any other state, including but not limited to, exempt settings as defined in N.J.S.A. 45:15BB-5. Further, without the express approval of the Board, respondent shall not work in any social work setting even when certification or licensure is not required for employment. To obtain Board approval, respondent shall make the request in writing and include a detailed job description. The request shall be sent to Leslie Aronson, Executive Director, State Board of Social Work Examiners, 124 Halsey Street, Sixth Floor, Newark, New Jersey 07101. The Board shall consider the request at its next meeting. If respondent shows that she must give her decision to the

prospective employer before the next Board meeting, the request shall be presented to the Board President who may make a decision on behalf of the Board. In order to determine the appropriateness of the employment, the Board shall have the right to obtain further information from the prospective employer and an opinion from respondent's therapist. Approval shall not be unreasonably withheld by the Board.

4. Commencing upon the entry of the within Consent Order, respondent shall engage in weekly psychotherapy for a minimum of twelve months with a therapist approved by the Board, and respondent shall provide the therapist with a copy of this Consent Order. After the completion of the twelve months, the frequency of the therapy shall be determined by the therapist. Respondent shall cause the therapist to provide quarterly reports directly to the Board with respect to her attendance and progress in therapy. When the therapist in her/his professional judgment determines that respondent has successfully completed therapy and may therefore terminate therapy, respondent shall cause her therapist, prior to termination, to provide a detailed discharge summary to the Board. If upon review of the discharge summary, the Board determines that termination of therapy is premature, respondent shall continue in therapy at a frequency to be determined by the therapist.

5. Prior to reinstatement, respondent shall submit to a comprehensive psychological evaluation performed by a Board approved therapist. Respondent shall pay all costs of said evaluation, arrange for the therapist to provide the Board with a

copy of the evaluation, agree to the release of any and all records relating to the evaluation upon the Board's request, and shall fully comply with any recommendations contained in the evaluation.

6. Prior to reinstatement, respondent shall appear before the Board to demonstrate her ability and fitness to practice social work in the State of New Jersey.

7. Respondent is hereby assessed a civil penalty in the amount of one thousand, five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) for having had a sexual relationship with N.E. during the time that she was his therapist and thereafter, in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:44G-10.7(c), (f), (g) and (i), and N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(c), (d) and (e).

8. Respondent shall pay the costs of the investigation of this matter in the amount of two thousand, three hundred and seventeen dollars (\$2,317.00).

9. Respondent shall pay the above penalty and cost, totaling three thousand, eight hundred and seventeen dollars (\$3,817.00) in monthly installments of one hundred and fifty-nine dollars (\$159.00) per month by certified check or money order, payable to the State of New Jersey, and due every month on or before the first day of the month until the total amount is paid. Upon respondent's signing of the within Consent Order, respondent shall immediately pay in one payment the total amount owed from October 1, 1998 through the month in which respondent signs the Consent Order. All payments shall be sent to Leslie Aronson, Executive Director, State Board of Social Work Examiners, 124 Halsey Street, Sixth Floor, Newark, New Jersey 07101. If any

payment is not timely, the full amount shall become immediately due and payable.

10. Respondent shall scrupulously comply henceforth with the laws of the State of New Jersey and in particular the statutes and regulations of the State of New Jersey regarding the practice of Social Work, including but not limited to, abstaining from any form of dual relationships or sexual relationships with clients (current clients or ones terminated within the past two years.) Upon proof of any violation of the within Consent Order or any violations of the laws of New Jersey, the Board in its discretion may activate any remaining periods of stayed suspension or impose any other appropriate sanction authorized by law.

  
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Mariagnes Lattimer, MSW, LCSW

I have read the within Consent Order and understand its terms. I hereby consent to its entry and to be bound by the Consent Order's terms.

  
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Jennifer Koegel, LCSW

This Consent Order is approved as form and entry:

  
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Paul Strawinski, Esq.  
Attorney for Respondent