

**FILED BY THE BOARD OF
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS**
4-26-2000

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

In the Matter of :
: Administrative Action
JUDITH LOCKARD LCSW :
:
Licensed to Practice Social Work: CONSENT ORDER
in the State of New Jersey :
:
:

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Social Work Examiners ("the Board") upon receipt of complaints from P.S., G.S., and J.S. regarding therapeutic services provided by Judith Lockard ("respondent"), a Licensed Clinical Social Worker ("L.C.S.W."). Respondent, along with other therapists employed by respondent, provided group therapy under the name "Family Works". P.S., G.S., and J.S. complained about the nature of the therapy, the process used in the therapy, and the billing practices. The respondent appeared with her attorney, John Dizzia, Esq. at an investigative inquiry before the Board on November 17, 1999.

Having reviewed the entire record, including an investigative report by the Enforcement Bureau, Division of Consumer Affairs, and the testimony of respondent and complainants, it appears to the Board that respondent failed to conform to standard social work practice in the State of New Jersey in the following respects:

1. Respondent engaged in professional misconduct pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and inaccurately depicted services rendered in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b) whereby respondent provided to P.S. a statement for insurance purposes which reflected that the fee was \$100.00 per hour rather than \$100.00 per session; respondent provided to clients statements for insurance purposes which reflected that the sessions were individual despite the fact they were group sessions; respondent failed to determine the proper CPT code to include on the statements provided to clients for insurance purposes; and respondent failed to properly supervise her clerical staff, thereby allowing statements with inaccuracies to be sent, including the use of statements with outdated letterhead naming a psychiatrist, J.K., who was not affiliated with Family Works.

2. Respondent engaged in advertising violations in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:44G-11.2 whereby respondent for a period of approximately two years allowed to be sent to clients billing statements on outdated letterhead. Specifically, the letterhead included the name of a psychiatrist, J.K., who had previously

supervised respondent but was in no way connected to Family Works. The billing statements on the outdated letterhead misrepresented to clients and insurance providers that the psychiatrist was involved with the therapy provided through Family Works.

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

IT IS ON THIS 26th DAY OF April 2000,

HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. Respondent is hereby assessed a civil penalty in the amount of \$1,000.00 for her inaccurate depiction of services rendered in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21 (b), her professional misconduct pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21 (e), and her advertising violation pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:44G-11.2.

2. Respondent shall pay the costs of this investigation in the amount of \$4,000.00.

3. Respondent shall pay the above penalty and cost, totaling five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) in monthly installments of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00) 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 in twenty months. The first payment of \$250.00 shall be due on or before May 1, 2000. 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.

Mariagnes B. Lattimer
Mariagnes Lattimer, MSW, LCSW

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

Judith Lockard LCSW
Judith Lockard, LCSW