

FILED BY THE BOARD OF
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

BY 2/28/02

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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

CARLYN GRAHAM, LCSW

Licensed to Practice Social
Work In the State of New Jersey:

Administrative Action

CONSENT ORDER

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Social Work Examiners (hereinafter "the Board") upon receipt of information that Carlyn Graham (hereinafter "respondent"), Licensed Clinical Social Worker violated the Social Workers' Licensing Act while providing therapy to P.C. Specifically, the information disclosed that while providing therapy, respondent crossed professional boundaries and engaged in conduct deemed to be professional misconduct.

On December 11, 2001, respondent appeared with counsel, James Wulach, Esq., for an investigative inquiry into the matter. The complaint and the investigative inquiry disclosed that at a psychotherapy session on February 9, 2001, P.C. gave respondent a bag containing a calendar. Respondent claims that when she opened the calendar later that evening, she discovered that each month had a \$100.00 bill attached to it for a total of \$1,200.00. Respondent further contends that within a day she called P.C. to say she could not accept it; however, P.C. refused to take the money back. To the contrary, P.C. alleges that respondent opened the calendar immediately, was happy to see the money, and never offered to return the money.

During the investigative inquiry, respondent contended that she decided to lock the money in her office and to work with P.C. in therapy regarding the return of the money. Respondent admitted that other than the initial attempt, she made no further attempts to return the money although she claims to have addressed the issue in therapy. Most revealing is the fact that although P.C. and respondent had approximately nine therapy sessions after P.C. gave respondent the money, the client session notes for all nine sessions do not include any reference to the issue ever being discussed. In fact, the money was not returned until approximately six weeks later when P.C. demanded that it be returned.

An additional boundary violation appears to have occurred when respondent's husband accompanied her to P.C.'s home to evaluate P.C.'s mother. Respondent claims that her husband accompanied her as a support person for the mother. According to respondent, the support consisted of her husband participating in a brief, general conversation with the mother, and then retreating with P.C. to P.C.'s bedroom to talk while respondent performed the evaluation.

Having reviewed the entire record, it appears to the Board that, in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:44G-10.4, respondent's relationship with P.C.. crossed the professional boundaries between therapist and client when she retained the gift of money until the client demanded its return and when she had her husband accompany her to P.C.'s house for an evaluation of P.C.'s mother. Such conduct is the basis for professional misconduct pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).

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

IT IS ON THIS *21st* DAY OF *February* 2002,

HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. Respondent is hereby reprimanded for the crossing of professional boundaries between therapist and client.
2. Respondent is hereby assessed a civil penalty in the amount of two thousand, five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) for having

crossed professional boundaries in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:44G-10.4, constituting professional misconduct pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).

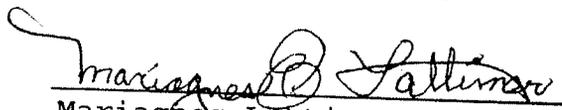
3. Respondent shall pay the costs of the investigation of this matter in the amount of six hundred and seven dollars (\$607.00).

4. Respondent shall pay the above penalty and cost, totaling three thousand, one hundred and seven dollars (\$3,107.00), in ten consecutive monthly installments with the first installment being in the amount of four hundred and seven dollars (\$407.00), and the remaining nine payments being in the amount of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) per payment. The first payment is due on or before March 1, 2002 and, the remaining nine payments are due on or before the first day of the month until the amount is paid in full. Payment shall be by certified check or money order, payable to the State of New Jersey, and sent to Leslie Aronson, Executive Director, State Board of Social Work Examiners, P.O. Box 45033, Newark, New Jersey 07101. If any payment is untimely, the full amount will become immediately due and payable.

5. Upon the signing of the within Consent Order, respondent shall submit to the Board for its approval the name and resume of an appropriate individual to supervise respondent for a twelve month period. At a minimum, respondent shall meet face-to-face with the supervisor for one hour sessions once a week. Respondent

shall give the supervisor a copy of the within Consent Order and shall cause the supervisor to write quarterly reports to the Board regarding the supervisory sessions.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS



Mariagnes Lattimer, Ph.D, 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.



Carlyn Graham, LCSW