

On July 17, 2001 respondent appeared with counsel Patrick Callahan, Esq. for an investigative inquiry into the matter. Respondent stated that she diagnosed and treated E.T. for Multiple Personality Disorder ("MPD") although respondent's only training in MPD was participating in some workshops at a three day conference and doing independent reading on the subject. While respondent denied some of the allegations made by E.T., she admitted to numerous boundary violations while E.T. was a client. The boundary violations included in part the following: respondent and E.T. engaged in inappropriate displays of affection; respondent invited E.T. to socialize with respondent's family; respondent and E.T. exchanged gifts and cards of endearment; and E.T. assisted respondent in certain aspects of respondent's personal life.

Respondent stated that therapy terminated in approximately January 1996. It was respondent's opinion that at the time of termination, E.T. still had issues to resolve in therapy. Despite the long therapeutic relationship and respondent's opinion that E.T. was still in need of therapy, respondent admits that once the therapy relationship was terminated, a personal relationship continued between respondent and E.T. for almost another year; during which time, respondent and E.T. socialized on a regular basis.

Having reviewed the entire record, including the report by the Enforcement Bureau and the testimonies of witnesses and respondent at the investigative inquiries, it appears to the Board that

respondent's relationship with E.T. crossed the professional boundaries between therapist and client, thereby limiting respondent's objectivity, impairing her professional judgment, and increasing the risk of exploitation in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:44G-10.4, providing a basis for discipline pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and (h). Further, it appears to the Board that respondent engaged in professional misconduct pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21 (e) when respondent diagnosed and treated E.T. for MPD without having sufficient knowledge and experience, and when respondent engaged in a personal relationship with E.T. immediately following the termination of therapy.

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

IT IS ON THIS 13th DAY OF March 2002,

HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. Respondent's license to practice social work in the State of New Jersey is hereby voluntarily surrendered. Said voluntary surrender shall have the same force and effect as if her license had been revoked. Fourteen days from the entry of the within Consent Order, respondent shall terminate all her clients, giving them appropriate referrals and records.
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, P.O. Box 45033, Newark, New Jersey 07101.

3. 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.

4. Based upon the egregious boundary violations, respondent shall not have leave to reapply for five years following the entry of the Final Order at which time the Board will consider respondent's fitness to resume practice. In addition, the Board reserves the right to place restrictions on respondent's practice should she ever seek licensure reinstatement.

5. Respondent is hereby reprimanded for her unprofessional conduct with her client E.T..

6. Respondent is hereby assessed a civil penalty in the amount of three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) for having crossed professional boundaries in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:44G-10.4, providing a basis for discipline pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and (h), and for professional misconduct pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).

7. Respondent shall pay the costs of the investigation of this matter in the amount of two thousand, one hundred and thirty-two dollars (\$2,132.00)

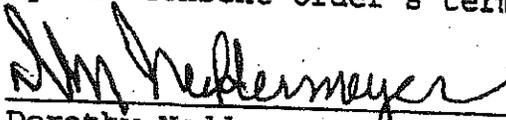
8. Respondent shall pay the above penalty and cost, totaling five thousand, one hundred and thirty-two dollars (\$5,132.00), in twenty monthly installments with the first installment being in the amount of three hundred and eighty-two dollars (\$382.00) and the

remaining nineteen installments being in the amount of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00). The first payment shall be due by the first day of the month following respondent's signing of the within Consent Order, and all subsequent payments are due every month on or before the first day of the month until the total amount is paid. All payments 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.

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.


Dorothy Neddermeyer, LCSW