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FILED BY THE BOARD OF
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

KMC 7-2-03

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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 THE SUSPENSION)
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF:

RICHARD HILLENBRAND, L.C.S.W.
License No. SC-6006

Civil Action

CONSENT ORDER

TO PRACTICE SOCIAL WORK IN THE
STATE OF NEW JERSEY)

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Social Work Examiners (hereinafter "the Board") upon receipt of a Biennial License Renewal dated July 10, 1998 from Richard Hillenbrand L.C.S.W. (hereinafter "Respondent"), indicating that he had been convicted in Woodbury City Municipal Court of harassing a State Senator in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:33-4A, but the matter was on appeal. Respondent's appeal was dismissed for failure to file a brief required by Consent Order. Further investigation by the Enforcement Bureau of the Division of Consumer Affairs revealed that Respondent had been terminated from his employment with Green Spring Health Services, Inc. for allegedly threatening another employee and making outbursts in the form of cursing.

Additionally, the Board received information from Respondent's employer CMS, Inc. that Respondent was behaving inappropriately toward co-workers and clients at New Jersey State Prison. The complaints provided examples of highly unusual and threatening behavior and chronicled acts of incompetence and professional misconduct. Materials subpoenaed from CMS, Inc., the private employer of the social work staff at New Jersey State Prison, documented disciplinary proceedings. Respondent was terminated from this position on or about July 17, 2000.

On May 17, 2000, Respondent appeared with his former counsel, Lorraine Harris, Esq. and testified before the Board. On June 21, 2000, three of Respondent's co-workers in the crisis stabilization unit of the prison appeared and gave testimony before the Board.

On January 23, 2001, Respondent was served with a Verified Complaint and an Order to Show Cause to the Board as to why his license should not be temporarily suspended. The Attorney General sought an Order suspending or otherwise limiting the license of Respondent pending a plenary hearing and sought a further Order requiring Respondent to undergo complete psychological and psychiatric evaluations to assist the Board in making further decisions regarding his licensure. The complaint alleged that Respondent had engaged in inappropriate and erratic physical behaviors that occurred with sufficient frequency as to be noted by his CMS co-workers at New Jersey State Prison; that Respondent

exhibited unprofessional conduct in his interactions with Department Corrections personnel; that Respondent's behavior compromised the treatment rendered to inmates, all indications that Respondent is unable to discharge the functions of a licensee in a manner consistent with the public's health, safety and welfare pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(i).

Respondent, through counsel Patrick Callahan, Esq., requested that the Order to Show Cause be adjourned, pending results of a complete psychiatric evaluation which Respondent agreed to undergo. The Board agreed to this course of action. The resulting psychiatric report dated June 12, 2001 opined that Respondent suffers from a mental disorder that prevents Respondent from practicing consulting or therapy as a licensed clinical social worker in a manner compatible with the public's health, safety and welfare. It recommends that Respondent obtain psychiatric treatment and be reevaluated at a subsequent time for fitness to practice.

The Board reviewed the entire record, including the report by the Enforcement Bureau, the testimony of Respondent and co-workers, and the report of the psychiatrist. It appeared to the Board that Respondent's mental disorder impaired Respondent's professional judgment and presented a clear and imminent danger to the public were Respondent to continue to practice. Respondent agreed to enter into a Consent Order filed February 5, 2002, to Voluntarily

Refrain from the Practice of Social Work Pending Plenary Hearing.

Respondent being desirous of resolving this matter without further proceedings, and without admitting guilt to any of the allegations raised in the Complaint; and the Board having determined that the within disposition is adequately protective of the public health, safety and welfare.

IT IS on this *2nd* day of *July*, 2003:

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 three years.

2. The suspension of Respondent's license to practice social work means that Respondent shall not hold himself as a social worker or practice social work in this State or any other state, including, but limited to, exempt settings as defined in N.J.S.A. 45:15BB-5.

3. Commencing upon the entry of the with Consent Order, Respondent shall engage in ongoing treatment with a Board-approved psychiatrist, psychologist or licensed clinical social worker ("therapist").

At the outset, Respondent shall provide the therapist with a copy of this Consent Order and shall cause the therapist to provide directly to the Board a detailed report of what treatment he/she is recommending, which plan the Board must approve. Respondent shall cause the therapist to provide quarterly reports directly to the

Board with respect to his attendance and progress in therapy, and shall follow all recommendations of the therapist. Respondent shall pay all costs of said therapy.

4. At the end of the three years set forth in paragraph one herein, the therapist shall provide directly to the Board a comprehensive evaluation of Respondent. Respondent shall pay all costs of said evaluation, arrange for the therapist to provide the Board with a copy of the evaluation and agree to the release of any and all records relating to the evaluation.

5. At the end of two years of the three year suspension set forth in paragraph one, Respondent may elect to petition the Board for reconsideration of his period of suspension based upon a demonstration of his ability and fitness to practice social work. As a condition precedent to the Board's review, Respondent's therapist must provide a comprehensive evaluation to the Board. Respondent shall pay all cost of said evaluation, arrange for the therapist to provide the Board with a copy of the evaluation and agree to the evaluation. After review of the evaluation, the Board may determine whether or not to grant Respondent an appearance before the Board. The Board reserves the right to decide whether or not to truncate the period of suspension or to continue it to term.

6. Should the Board elect to continue the suspension to term, upon completion of the period of suspension set forth in paragraph

one herein, Respondent shall appear before the Board to demonstrate his ability and fitness to practice social work. The Board reserves the right to extend the active period of suspension or to impose such restrictions or limitations as it may deem necessary. The parties specifically stipulate that the Board may withhold or limit Respondent's license based upon his progress during the three years' treatment and mental health evaluation.

7. Upon proof of any violations of the within Consent Order or any violations of the laws of New Jersey, the Board in its discretion may impose any other appropriate sanction authorized by law.



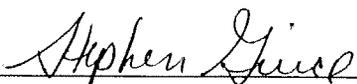
Doreen Bobby, L.C.S.W.
Chairperson

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 term.



Richard Hillenbrand, L.C.S.W.

This Consent Order is approved as to form and entry:



Stephen W. Guice, Esq.
Attorney for Respondent