

CERTIFIED TO BE
A TRUE COPY

ZULIMA V. FARBER
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY
124 Halsey Street
P.O. Box 45029
Newark, New Jersey 07102
Attorney for State Board of Psychological Examiners

FILED WITH THE BOARD OF
PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS
ON March 6, 2006

By: Carmen A. Rodriguez
Deputy Attorney General
(973) 648-3696

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF

CHRISTOPHER WRIGHT, PH.D.
License No. 194700

TO PRACTICE PSYCHOLOGY IN
THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Administrative Action

CONSENT ORDER

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Psychological Examiners (hereinafter "the Board") upon receipt of information submitted by the Director at Alina Lodge located in Blairstown, New Jersey alleging that Dr. Wright (the Respondent) was terminated from his employment as a therapist for professional misconduct. The Director alleged that Dr. Wright was showing special attention to a female patient and had given her several gifts including a charm, a bracelet and a book. Although the Director was assured

patient. Respondent admitted kissing and fondling the patient. He testified that he did not engage in intercourse with the patient. Respondent was terminated on July 28, 2005.

Respondent admitted that "he is aware that his behavior with the female patient was inappropriate and that his behavior indicated a lapse in his judgment." Respondent acknowledged that he has begun psychotherapy with Dr. Morris Goodman, Ph.D. to explore the issues raised by this matter. He also continues to provide psychological services in a private practice setting. His practice includes adult individual and couples counseling and psychological testing.

Respondent also obtained the services of Phillip Witt, Ph.D. and requested an evaluation of his conduct with the female patient in question and to assess his ability to practice. Dr. Witt characterized the respondent as a low risk individual with regard to a recurrence of his actions. Dr. Witt opined that the respondent's prior history and the respondent's emotional vulnerabilities led to a lapse in judgment and inappropriate behavior with the female patient.

Having reviewed the entire record, including the testimony and written response of the respondent and Dr. Witt's evaluation, it appears to the Board that respondent has committed boundary violations with this patient and has violated the sexual misconduct regulation of the Board. Based upon the evaluation submitted by Dr. Witt this incident appears to be a one time occurrence which most likely will not be repeated by the Respondent. Respondent's conduct constitutes sexual contact which is defined as "knowing touching of a person's body directly or through clothing..." and a licensee is not permitted to engage in sexual contact with a current patient pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:42-10.9(a) and 13:42-10.9(b). This conduct is deemed to constitute professional misconduct

pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:42-10.9(i) and N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e). These facts establish a basis for disciplinary action pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and (h) and N.J.A.C. 13:42-10.9 (a), (b) and (i) which defines sexual contact to constitute professional misconduct.

The respondent being desirous of resolving this matter without resort to formal proceedings, and the Board having determined that the following provisions are sufficiently protective of the public interest and welfare, and for good cause shown,

IT IS ON THIS 6th DAY OF March, 2006

HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

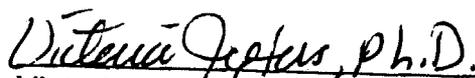
1. Respondent's license to practice psychology shall be suspended for two years. The suspension is stayed in full on the condition that Respondent obtain supervision of his practice. The period of stayed suspension begins thirty (30) days from the date that the consent order is filed with the Board. The supervisor shall be approved by the Board prior to his being engaged by the Respondent and shall report in writing to the Board on a weekly basis regarding the respondent's progress for the first six months. After the completion of six months the Board will make a determination in writing based on the previous reports received to determine whether to extend the time period of reporting by the supervisor. The supervisor's report shall provide an informative evaluation of the respondent's patient treatment and professional practice. The supervisor shall pay particular attention to respondent's dealing with boundary problems and sexual

relationships as well as respondent's overall practice. The costs of supervision is the responsibility of the respondent. The supervisor shall agree to promptly notify the Board of work which fails to meet the acceptable standards of the professional practice.

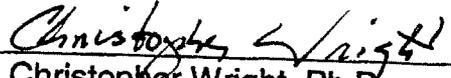
2. Respondent shall continue his psychotherapy with Dr. Morris Goodman, Ph.D. during the entire period of stayed suspension. In the event that Respondent terminates his therapy with Dr. Goodman the Respondent shall inform the Board in writing of the name of his new therapist and shall remain in therapy for the complete period of stayed suspension. The therapist shall submit to the Board quarterly reports providing the dates of attendance in therapy and a statement that respondent is satisfactorily participating in the therapy process.

3. Failure to comply with any of the terms of this Consent Order shall constitute a violation of the Order which will constitute grounds for the activation of the stayed suspension into an active suspension. Similarly, any allegations of sexual misconduct and/or violations of the Practicing Psychology Licensing Act and/or its accompanying regulations on the part of the respondent during the stayed period of probation, which are substantiated by the Board, shall also serve as grounds for the activation of the stayed suspension into an active suspension or any other appropriate disciplinary action as the Board may determine.

STATE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS


Victoria Jeffers, Ph.D.
Chair

I have read and understand the within Consent Order and agree to be bound by its terms. Consent is hereby given to the Board to enter this Order.



Christopher Wright, Ph.D.

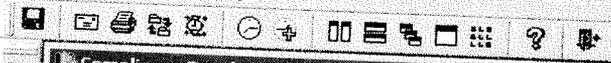
DATED: 2.21.2006

This Order is agreed to as to form and entry.



Christopher Barbrack, Esquire

DATED: 2/23/06



Compliance For Christopher G. Wright, Ph.D.

Violations | Actions | Citation | Monetary Penalties | Restitution | Limits | Monitoring

From: Board Violation: (none)

Complaint #	Docket #	Cause #	State	Start	End	Action
Practicing Psychologist license #35SI00194700:						
2005-000000443:			NJ	00/00/0000	00/00/0000	Suspension-tem
2005-000000443:			NJ	00/00/0000	00/00/0000	Psychological Ev

New Delete