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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DIV. OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF MARRIAGE
& FAMILY THERAPY

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR EXAMINERS COMMITTEE

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR EXAMINERS COMMITTEE
OF THE STATE BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND
FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS

In The Matter of :
: Administrative Action
JOSEPH P. FINLEY :
: CONSENT ORDER
Unlicensed Practice in :
The State of New Jersey :
:

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Professional Counselor Examiners Committee of the New Jersey State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners (hereinafter "the Committee") upon receipt of information which disclosed that Joseph P. Finley ("Respondent") engaged in providing unlicensed professional counseling services in a private practice setting in the State of New Jersey.

On December 1, 2005, Respondent appeared with counsel Michael S. Scaramella, Esq., before the Committee for an investigative

inquiry. Respondent admitted that he had been providing professional counseling services to individuals at Christian Counseling and Therapy Associates, a for-profit private practice, in New Jersey under the supervision of Julie Wegryn, LPC. This professional counseling commenced with Respondent's academic internship as a student at Neuman College and continued after Respondent's completion of his last semester at the college on April 30, 2003, with Respondent then continuing to serve and be designated by Ms. Wegryn as a counselor "intern" or "trainee" at the practice. Respondent testified that he believed his voluntarily continued supervised internship at Christian Counseling and Therapy Associates to be appropriate and lawful.

Having reviewed the entire record, it appears to the Committee that Respondent engaged in the unlicensed practice of professional counseling in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:8B-39 by having continued the practice of counseling in a private practice setting despite the fact that he was no longer enrolled in a supervised course of study in counseling at a regionally accredited institution of higher education and did not hold any license which would entitle him to provide such services in the State of New Jersey.

It appearing that Respondent wishes to resolve this matter without further proceedings, and the Committee having determined that the following provisions are sufficiently protective of the public interest and welfare, and for good cause shown:

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this FIRST day of JUNE, 2006,
ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. Respondent shall immediately cease and desist from engaging in any counseling services in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:8B-39.

2. Respondent shall not advertise, offer to provide or engage in the practice of professional counseling, marriage and family therapy, psychology, psychotherapy services, social work, mental health therapy, and/or any other mental health counseling services without a license as may be required for practice in the State of New Jersey unless and until fully authorized to perform each respective service by the New Jersey State Professional Counselor Examiners Committee, and/or the New Jersey State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners, and/or the New Jersey State Board of Psychological Examiners, and/or the New Jersey Board of Social Work Examiners.

3. Respondent shall pay the costs of the State's investigation in this matter in the amount of three hundred eighty two dollars and fifty cents (\$382.50) and a civil penalty in the amount of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) to the State of New Jersey. Respondent shall pay the costs and penalty in the amount of two thousand three hundred eighty two dollars and fifty cents (\$2,382.50) at a rate of two hundred thirty eight dollars and twenty-five cents (\$238.25) per month over a period of ten (10) months, on the fifteenth (15th) day of each month. The first installment shall be due on the fifteenth (15th) day of the month following the entry of the Order. In the event of nonpayment of any installment by the end of the month that it is due, the entire balance shall become due and owing, and the Committee may file a certificate of debt

and/or an action for collection of debt, costs and attorneys fees. Payments shall be submitted to the Committee by certified check or money order and made payable to the State of New Jersey. The payment shall be sent to Elaine DeMars, Executive Director, State of New Jersey Professional Counselor Examiners Committee, Post Office Box 45007, Newark, New Jersey 07101.

NEW JERSEY STATE PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR
EXAMINERS COMMITTEE

By: J. Barry Mascari
J. Barry Mascari, LPC
President

I have read and understand the within Consent Order and agree to be bound by its terms. Consent is hereby given to the New Jersey State Professional Counselor Examiners Committee of the State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners to enter this Order.

Joseph P. Finley
Joseph P. Finley

5/17/06
Date

Consent as to form and entry:

Michael S. Scaramella
Michael S. Scaramella, Esq.

5/22/06
Date