



children not be re-interviewed but that the evaluating therapist rely upon videotapes, transcripts etc. already prepared by other psychologists to assess whether or not the children were sexually abused by their father. The complainant further alleged that respondent exposed T. F., who was four years old at the time, to unnecessary abuse by permitting him to be present during the interview of his sister, C.F. wherein she recounted the incidents of the alleged abuse.

The second complaint was submitted to the Board by Mr. LV who hired Respondent to conduct a "best interest" evaluation in a custody matter. Mr. LV alleged that Respondent was biased in favor of his ex-wife in the evaluation. He also submitted a report prepared by an independent reviewer, David Martindale, Ph.D. at his behest to review the evaluative report prepared by the respondent. Dr. Martindale found that the quality of the report prepared by Respondent in the LV matter indicated that the respondent failed to resolve discrepancies in data, to investigate allegations, included incompetent assessment and demonstrated unfamiliarity with test instruments.

Respondent appeared with her attorney, Christopher Barbrack, Esquire on July 18, 2005 at an investigative inquiry to discuss the psychological services that she performed in both matters discussed above. Dr. Arbeiter advised the Board that she was currently not actively practicing psychology and had closed her New Jersey office about a year ago for personal reasons. Having reviewed the entire record, including the testimony and written response of the respondent to the complainant's allegations and taking into consideration a history of complaints filed against Dr. Arbeiter, it appears to the Board that respondent has not had specific training or supervisory experience in the area of child sexual abuse evaluations. The interview of the children concerning abuse is a highly

specialized area. Respondent's experience in treating children who have been sexually abused does not prepare her to conduct an interview and assessment of sexual abuse. Respondent has not worked in any of the four Regional Diagnostic Centers for Abuse and Neglect nor is there any evidence of writings or training of others on this topic. Furthermore, the Respondent is not a member of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children nor that has she attended the five day training program in interviewing entitled, "Finding Words", that is offered in New Jersey for people who investigate child abuse. While respondent's resume indicates that she conducted many evaluations of sexual abuse in the context of custody/visitation disputes, this experience is not sufficient to train and gain experience in the evaluation of abuse allegations without independent training in child abuse evaluation. Respondent lacks training or supervised experience in the evaluation of alleged sex offenders. Respondent has training in Human Sexuality but no specific training in assessing individuals alleged to have committed sexual offenses. There is no evidence that respondent received training or produced scholarly works in the area of sex offenders and their assessment. The experience of custody/visitation evaluations does not prepare a psychologist for this specialty.

Respondent's actions in interviewing child sex abuse victims after they had been interviewed by several other psychologists violated standards of practice regarding multiple evaluations. The Practice Guidelines for the Psychosocial Evaluation of Suspected Sexual Abuse in Children as produced by the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) provide that "discretion should be used in agreeing to conduct an evaluation of a child when the child has already been evaluated. Additional evaluations should be conducted only if they clearly further the best interests of the child. When a

second opinion is required, a review of the records may eliminate the need for re-interviewing the child." In this particular case, extensive documentation was available including several written reports and a videotape of one of the prior interviews concerning the details of C.K.'s previous evaluations. Interviewing the children together was not a common practice. Such interview may traumatize the other child present at the interview and cause unnecessary risk of harm to the child. Joint interviews also raise the possibility of the contamination of the children causing one child to make statements or allegations based on what a sibling has heard or said.

Additionally, a review of both complaints concerning custody and sexual evaluation performed by Dr. Arbeiter evidence her lack of understanding of tests and measurements. The respondent should be well versed in the MMPI, MCPI and any other instruments that she uses. Her written reports demonstrate that she is not properly citing the computer generated narratives in her reports. The reports demonstrate a limited ability to integrate the test results with the clinical history and it further appears that she is copying the narratives from the testing contrary to accepted standards of practice.

These facts establish basis for disciplinary action pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21 (h) and N.J.A.C. 13:42-10.4(c) which requires that a licensee shall meet professional responsibilities to the public as determined by accepted standards of practice, law or rules and N.J.A.C. 13:42-10.4(d) which provides that a licensee shall remain abreast of standards of practice in the profession by securing continuing education such as training, experience or counsel and through professional journals. Respondent lacked the training and experience to perform sexual abuse evaluations of children, lacked training and

experience in the interviewing of children of alleged sexual abuse and assessment of sex offenders.

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 *6<sup>th</sup>* DAY OF *June* 2006

HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. Respondent shall immediately cease and desist from conducting sexual abuse evaluations and should refer said evaluations until she has completed a re-specialization in clinical psychology.
2. Respondent shall obtain a re-specialization in clinical psychology pre-approved by the Board with an emphasis on psychological measurements, testing and report writing which includes applications to custody and sexual abuse evaluations. The re-specialization course shall be pre-approved by the Board. Written proofs shall be provided to the Board to demonstrate that the re-specialization has been successfully completed before the respondent resumes practice in sexual abuse evaluations.

STATE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS

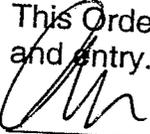
*Victoria Jeffers, Ph.D.*

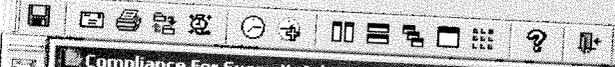
Victoria Jeffers, Ph.D.  
Chair

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Arbeiter, Psy.D.

This Order is agreed to as to form  
and entry.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Christopher Barbrack, Esquire



Compliance For Susan K. Arbeiter, Psy.D.

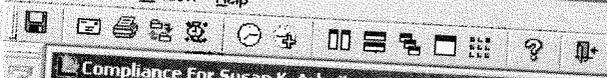
Violations | Actions | Citation | Monetary Penalties | Restitution | Limits | Monitoring

From: Board Violation: (none)

Practicing Psychologist license #355100164500:

Complaint #	Docket #	Cause #	State	Start	End	Action
2003-000000553			NJ	06/06/2006	00/00/0000	Cease and Desi

New Delete



Compliance For Susan K. Arbeiter, Psy.D.

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

From: Board Violation: (none)

Practicing Psychologist license #35SI00164500:

Complaint #	Docket #	Cause #	State	Start	End	Action
2003-000000853			NJ	06/06/2006	00/00/0000	Cease and Desi

New Delete