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

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FILED

July 12, 2006

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 THE LICENSE OF :
: Administrative Action
JANICE PAUL :
License No. 37PC00128300 :
: CONSENT ORDER
TO PRACTICE PROFESSIONAL :
COUNSELING 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 a complaint from A.R. alleging professional misconduct by Janice Paul ("Respondent"), a Licensed Professional Counselor. A.R. alleged that Respondent submitted a letter to the Superior Court of New Jersey stating that his daughter I.R., age ten, had "expressed suicidal ideation" and that both I.R. and

daughter H.R., age fourteen, were suffering from "auditory hallucinations." A.R. alleged that Respondent's letter resulted in the Court ordering him to immediately take his daughters to Morristown Memorial Hospital for psychiatric evaluations and that Respondent's claims were deemed unfounded by the evaluating psychiatrist. A.R. further alleged that if Respondent's assessment had been correct, she put the children at risk by not informing him or his estranged wife S.R., to seek immediate care for their children. A.R. also alleged that Respondent's unprofessional conduct resulted in severe emotional upheaval for him and the minors.

On March 2, 2006, Respondent appeared, pro se, before the Committee for an investigative inquiry. Respondent testified that she wrote a letter dated November 20, 2005, addressed to the Judge handling a restraining order and custody matter involving A.R. and S.R. informing him of her concerns for I.R. and H.R. Respondent further testified that she is S.R.'s best friend and when she reported her concerns to S.R. she was advised by S.R.'s attorney to send a letter to the Court. Respondent testified that she did not report her concerns about the minors to A.R., who had physical custody of the minors, and that she did not forward a copy of the letter to A.R. Although Respondent testified that the children were not her clients and that she was a family friend, the letter she submitted to the Court is on the business letterhead of "Peaceful

Solutions, Inc.," Respondent's private practice, and signed using her credentials as a Licensed Professional Counselor. In the letter Respondent identifies herself as a "Clinician" in reporting her "clinical concerns," observations and interactions with the minors, and in setting forth her recommendations concerning the need for an immediate psychiatric evaluation of the minors and need for individual therapy.

The Committee reviewed the entire record concerning this case, including the complaint filed by A.R., as well as Respondent's testimony and documents obtained during its investigation. Of specific concern to the Committee is Respondent's management of the therapeutic needs of the minors, as well as the nature of the conflicting/dual relationship between Respondent and S.R. Based on the Committee's review it appears to the Committee that Respondent's conduct as described above provides grounds to initiate disciplinary action against Respondent's license pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e), in that Respondent engaged in professional misconduct and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h) in that Respondent failed to comply with N.J.A.C. 13:34-30.4, the regulation pertaining to conflicts of interest and dual relationships.

Respondent wishing 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 20th day of June, 2006,

ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. Respondent is reprimanded for engaging in professional misconduct in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).

2. Respondent is placed on probation for a term of two (2) years. During the probationary period, Respondent shall practice only under the supervision of a New Jersey licensed professional counselor approved by the Committee. Respondent shall be required to obtain one (1) hour of supervision for every ten (10) patient hours or any fraction thereof. Said supervision shall continue for the entire period of probation. Any period of time in which Respondent is not employed as a Professional Counselor shall be excluded from computation of the time to be served on probation. Respondent shall provide a copy of the Consent Order to her supervisor and shall cause the supervisor to provide quarterly reports directly to the Committee which shall include an informed evaluation of the Respondent's patient treatment and professional practice. The supervisor shall provide an immediate (within 24 hours of awareness) written report to the Committee upon any receipt of information that Respondent's practice fails to comply with the standard of care of professional counselors or poses a danger to any of her patients.

3. During the probationary period, Respondent shall not monitor or supervise any mental health students, interns and/or professionals.

4. Respondent shall attend and successfully complete a three (3) credit graduate level course pre-approved by the Committee focusing on ethics and boundary issues. Said course shall be completed at a regionally accredited institution within one (1) year of the entry of this Consent Order. Respondent understands that this course is in addition to the biennial hours of continuing education required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:34-15.1. Respondent shall submit proof of successful completion of the course on or before July 1, 2007.

5. Respondent shall pay the costs of the State's investigation in the amount of six hundred twenty-five dollars and fifty cents (\$625.50) due and payable no later than thirty (30) days following the entry date of the Order. Payment shall be submitted to the Committee by certified check or money order 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.

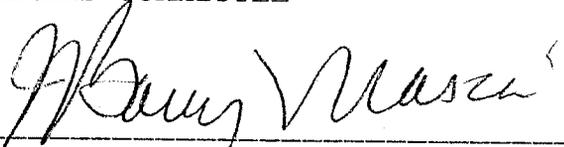
6. Respondent shall pay a civil penalty in the amount of four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) due and payable no later than thirty (30) days following the entry date of the Order. Payment

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.

7. Any deviation from the terms of this Consent Order without the prior written consent of the Committee shall be grounds for disciplinary action as the Committee may determine and may constitute grounds for new charges that may result in the suspension or revocation of Respondent's license.

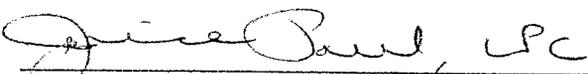
NEW JERSEY PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS
EXAMINERS COMMITTEE

By:



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
Committee to enter this Order.



Janice Paul, LPC

6/20/04
Date