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[Signature]
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS
ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR COMMITTEE

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE	:	
APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE OF	:	Administrative Action
	:	
PAUL G. STEFFENS	:	CONSENT ORDER GRANTING
	:	RESTRICTED LICENSE TO
TO PRACTICE CLINICAL ALCOHOL	:	PRACTICE CLINICAL ALCOHOL
AND DRUG COUNSELING IN THE	:	AND DRUG COUNSELING
STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	

This matter was opened before the Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee of the New Jersey State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners (hereinafter "the Committee"), upon review of Mr. Steffens' application for licensure as a clinical alcohol and drug counselor. In Mr. Steffens' application, he disclosed that he had plead guilty to medicaid fraud in 2002, had been sentenced to a term of three years probation, had been debarred by Medicaid from providing direct billing for individual and group counseling services and was precluded from applying for any public office. The applicant submitted a copy of the transcript of his plea on December 20, 2002 in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Law Division - Mercer County, Indictment No. 02-04-00039, in which he admitted that he was the

Chief Executive Officer of Hudson Behavioral Treatment Center, Inc. and that he was responsible for setting the parameters and work guidelines for employees. During the plea agreement, he testified that he created a system to record the names of the clients appearing at the program for whom Medicaid would pay. He further testified at the plea hearing that the system maximized the amount of services for which Medicaid paid Hudson Behavioral Treatment Center, Inc. by billing for a full day of counseling services for each client, without noting which clients did not attend the entire day's sessions. Mr. Steffens further admitted that the claims submitted through Columbus Hospital, a Medicaid provider, contained false representations concerning the provision of group counseling services to Medicaid recipients which were not, in fact, provided. Additionally, he provided a copy of the sentencing transcript of February 21, 2003. The transcript stated that he was sentenced to three years probation, monetary court assessments, was debarred by Medicaid from providing direct billing for individual and group counseling services and was precluded from applying for any public office. The judge stated that restitution would be dealt with in a civil forum.

Mr. Steffens appeared pro se before the Committee on April 21, 2006 to discuss his criminal history and his qualifications for licensure as an alcohol and drug counselor. He testified about his successful alcohol and drug rehabilitation more than twenty-three (23) years ago and his career as an alcohol and drug counselor. In response to Committee questions about his plea to Medicaid Fraud, the applicant testified that his crime was one of omission in that he failed to properly supervise the billing practices and that he had

not personally benefitted from the negligent and improper billing practices at Hudson Behavior Treatment Center, Inc. He was remorseful about his misconduct and was especially sorry that his misconduct led to the closing of Hudson Behavior Treatment, Inc. and caused forty (40) staff members to lose their jobs. Mr. Steffens testified that if he is permitted to re-enter the field of alcohol and drug counseling, he will personally check that the institution or facility where he works only bills for services actually provided.

The applicant testified that he is currently working in public relations and is not practicing alcohol and drug counseling. Mr. Steffens discussed how his alcohol and drug work in the field changed his life.

The Committee has reviewed Mr. Steffens' application, as well as his experience in the field of alcohol and drug counseling. The Committee also has taken into consideration the applicant's criminal conviction. The Committee has considered the applicant's acknowledgment of errors in his past, as well as his remorse relating to his criminal conduct. The Committee finding that the following disposition of this matter is adequately protective of the public, and other good cause appearing;

IT IS THEREFORE ON THIS 28th DAY OF July, 2006

ORDERED:

1. Mr. Steffens shall be granted a restricted license to practice clinical alcohol and drug counseling conditioned upon compliance with the terms of this Consent Order and all requirements for licensure as a clinical alcohol and drug counselor.

2. Mr. Steffens shall be precluded from providing alcohol and drug counseling services to any medicaid clients and his counseling services shall not be billed to Medicaid.

3. Mr. Steffens shall begin a period of probation for two (2) years beginning with the date of the filing of this Consent Order and continuing until receipt of written notification from the Committee stating that the applicant has fully complied with the terms of this Consent Order. Periods of time during which the applicant is not employed as a practicing alcohol and drug counselor shall be excluded from the computation of time to be served on probation. During the first year of probation, applicant's practice of clinical alcohol and drug counseling shall be limited in that he shall not supervise any alcohol and drug counselors, any intern and/or any other mental health counseling. During the entire period of probation, applicant shall provide the Committee notice in writing of all alcohol and drug counseling positions, including volunteer positions. The written documentation shall include the address of the premise, name of employer and if applicable, the name and telephone number of his supervisor. The written documentation regarding his alcohol and drug counseling employment shall be sent to the Committee within ten (10) days of commencement of employment.

4. Applicant shall complete twenty (20) hours of continuing education, including the six (6) contact hours of continuing educations in legal standards related to the practice of alcohol and drug counseling required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:34C-5.2(d) within one (1) year of the filing of this Consent Order and shall submit written proof to the Committee of successful completion of all twenty

(20) hours of continuing education within one (1) year of the filing of the Consent Order.

5. Upon completion of the period of probation, applicant may submit to the Committee a request for an unrestricted license to practice as a clinical alcohol and drug counselor after demonstrating that he has complied with the conditions of probation set forth in this Consent Order. The applicant shall appear before the Committee if so requested by the Committee, at which time the burden shall be on the applicant to produce evidence acceptable to the Committee that he is fit and competent to have an unrestricted license, to supervise alcohol and drug counselors and interns, and that he is capable of discharging the functions of a licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor in a manner consistent with the health, safety and welfare of the public.

6. During the period of probation and continuing thereafter, the applicant shall obey all of the laws of the State of New Jersey, the United States and their political subdivisions as well as all regulations, rules or laws pertaining to the practice of alcohol and drug counseling in this State or any other State.

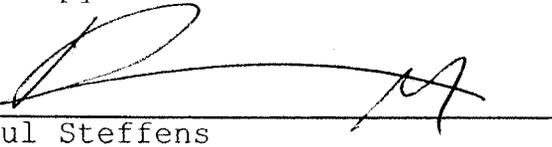
7. During the period of probation, the applicant shall inform all of his alcohol and drug counseling employers and supervisors of the terms of this Consent Order immediately upon commencement of employment and provide each employer and supervisor with a copy of this Consent Order. The applicant shall be required to provide the Committee with a letter signed by each employer and supervisor

acknowledging that the employer and the supervisor have read this Consent Order. The letters shall be submitted to the Committee within ten (10) days of the commencement of employment.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR COMMITTEE
OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS


Edward Reading, LCMHC
Committee Chair

I have read the above order and I understand and agree to abide by its terms. Consent is hereby given to the Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee of the State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners to enter this Order.


Paul Steffens