

FILED WITH THE BOARD OF
PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS
ON July 24, 2008

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

IN THE MATTER OF

Administrative Action

GEORGE ACKLEY, PH.D.
License No. 3028

CONSENT ORDER

TO PRACTICE PSYCHOLOGY IN
THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Psychological Examiners (hereinafter "the Board") upon receipt of information from the New Jersey Parole Board alleging that Dr. Ackley ("Respondent") requested and received automotive repair services from a parolee while he was an active counseling client of Respondent. Respondent conducts risk assessment evaluations for the Parole Board in order to help them address case planning needs, and also provides counseling services to parolees. Respondent began providing outpatient "offender specific" counseling treatment with P.H. on October

6, 2004. Respondent provided individual, couple, and family sessions twice a month, gradually tapering down to once a month. Treatment was ultimately terminated on October 10, 2007 at the request of P.H.'s parole officer, due to the Parole Board's complaint.

In a letter dated December 6, 2007, Respondent provided information confirming that he purchased a used transmission for his car on or about August 17, 2007. On August 18, 2007, he delivered the car to an automotive repair shop owned by P.H.'s father for installation of the transmission. After supplying additional parts to the shop, Respondent picked up the car on August 31, 2007 and paid the bill of \$467.00 in cash. P.H. informed his parole officer that he had given Respondent a discount on the installation. Respondent stated that he did not receive a discount or any other special benefits. He further stated that his actions constituted a "thoughtless mistake" which would not happen again.

The Respondent appeared with his attorney, Richard Amdur, Sr., Esquire, at an investigative inquiry before the Board on April 14, 2008. Respondent confirmed that he provided "offender specific treatment" working with Megan's Law offenders, that he began to do i working with P.H. in October 2004 upon a referral from P.H.'s parole officer, and that treatment was ultimately terminated by the parole officer. Respondent testified that he knew P.H. was a mechanic and they both were interested in cars, and that after a treatment session Respondent had asked P.H. to refer him to a place to purchase a used transmission. Respondent further testified that after another treatment session, he asked P.H. a referral for a place to install the transmission, and P.H. offered t himself. Respondent subsequently agreed and eventually paid for the transmission installation at the above-mentioned automotive repair shop in August 2007.

Having reviewed the entire record, it appears to the Board that respondent has committed boundary violations with P.H., and that his conduct constitutes a failure to comply with a law or regulation administered by the Board pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h). Specifically, the Board found that Respondent entered into a dual relationship in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:42-10.13(d) by entering into a business relationship with a current client.

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 *2nd* DAY OF *July*, 2008

HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. Respondent is hereby reprimanded for violation of the conflict of interest/dual relationships regulation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h) and N.J.A.C. 13:42-10.13(d).
2. Respondent's practice of psychology shall be supervised for a minimum of six months. The supervisor shall be approved by the Board prior to being engaged by the Respondent and shall be a licensed psychologist in New Jersey. Respondent shall submit the names of three potential supervisors for approval by the Board. The approved supervisor shall report in writing to the Board on a monthly basis regarding the respondent's progress. The supervisor's report shall provide an informative evaluation of

the respondent's patient treatment and professional practice. The supervisor shall review all client records and cases with Dr. Ackley. The supervisor shall pay particular attention to respondent's dealing with boundary issues concerning conflicts of interest and dual relationships. The supervisor shall agree to immediately notify the Board of any actions by Respondent which fail to meet acceptable standards of professional practice. The costs of supervision shall be the paid by the Respondent.

3. Respondent shall pay a penalty in the amount of Five Hundred dollars (\$500.00). Payment in full shall be remitted to the attention of J. Michael Walker, Executive Director, State Board of Psychological Examiners, P.O. Box 45017, Newark, New Jersey 07101 within ten (10) days of the filing of the Consent Order. Failure to submit the full amount of the penalty may result in the filing of a Certificate of Debt against the respondent in the Superior Court of New Jersey.

4. Respondent shall pay for costs incurred by the Board for the investigation of this matter in the amount of Two Hundred Thirty Six dollars and Sixty cents (\$236.60). Payment in full shall be remitted to the attention of J. Michael Walker, Executive Director, State Board of Psychological Examiners, P.O. Box 45017, Newark, New Jersey 07101 within ten (10) days of the filing of the Consent Order. Failure to submit the full amount of costs may result in the filing of a Certificate of Debt against the respondent in the Superior Court of New Jersey.

5. Failure to comply with any of the terms of this Consent Order shall constitute a violation of the Order which will constitute grounds for further disciplinary action as the Board may determine.

STATE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS

Nancy E. Friedman Ph.D.
Nancy Friedman, 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.

George W. Ackley Ph.D.
George Ackley, Ph.D.

DATED: July 13, 2008

This Order is agreed to as to form and entry.
Richard Amdur, Sr.
Richard Amdur, Sr., Esquire
Attorney for George Ackley, Ph. D

DATED: 7/21/08