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**NEW JERSEY BOARD OF
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS**

*J. Michael Haller
Executive Director*

By: Jodi C. Krugman
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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION :
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF: :
:
JARED LEVINE, L.S.W. :
License No. 44SL0531700 :
:
TO PRACTICE SOCIAL WORK :
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY :
:

Administrative Action

CONSENT ORDER

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Social Work Examiners ("Board") upon receipt of information that respondent Jared Levine, L.S.W. ("respondent") had engaged in a dual relationship with a client, D.W., during and immediately after the time the client was engaged in psychotherapy with respondent.

Specifically, the Board received a complaint alleging that a female client of Outpatient Behavioral Health Services at East Orange General Hospital disclosed that she had a sexual relationship with respondent while she was in active treatment with him. Two text messages of an inappropriate nature to the complaint sent by respondent

to the client were provided for review. Respondent was suspended and later terminated from his employment for violating the hospital's Ethical Standards and Code of Ethics.

Respondent's response to the Board's request for additional information acknowledged a sexual relationship with the client which he claimed began shortly after the conclusion of treatment. Respondent stated that he treated the client from July 25 through October 10, 2008, at which time he referred her to her original therapist at the hospital outpatient program. He admitted that he had a "lapse in judgment" and allowed an intimate relationship to develop in November 2008, which lasted approximately eight weeks, and claimed the client terminated the relationship on January 19, 2009. Respondent also provided a letter for the Board's consideration from his treating psychotherapist which indicates that respondent is experiencing deep regret for his actions and is working on analyzing all aspects of his behavior and developing a more profound "respect for boundaries and the need to protect his role with his patients." The psychotherapist concludes that he believes respondent is taking appropriate steps to prevent any recurrence of his behavior.

Even accepting respondent's version of events, it appears to the Board that respondent engaged in sexual misconduct as set forth in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:44G-10.7(c), in that he engaged in sexual contact with a former client to whom he provided social work services, including psychotherapy, within the preceding 24 months. Indeed, according to respondent, the intimate relationship began within a few weeks of the conclusion of treatment. Respondent's conduct provides grounds to take disciplinary action against his license to practice clinical social work in New Jersey pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e). The parties desiring to resolve this matter without recourse to

formal proceedings, and the Board finding that entry of this Order adequately protects the public health, safety, and welfare, for good cause shown:

IT IS ON THIS *24th* DAY OF *March*, 2010

HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. Respondent's license to practice social work shall be and hereby is suspended for a three (3) year period, effective June 1, 2009. The first year of the suspension shall be an active suspension, with the remaining two years to be stayed and served as a period of probation conditioned upon compliance with the terms of this Order and the laws governing social work in the State of New Jersey. Respondent may not resume the unrestricted practice of social work until further order of the Board.

2. In the event the Board receives information during the probationary period which the Board in its sole discretion deems reliable that respondent has failed to comply with any of the terms of this Consent Order, or has engaged in any dual relationship or boundary violation, the Board may immediately enter an order making respondent's period of stayed suspension active. Respondent shall have the right to apply to the Board to request a hearing, on seven (7) days' notice, for removal of the automatic suspension, but the application shall be limited to a showing that the information submitted to the Board was false or inaccurate.

3. Respondent shall continue in psychotherapy for the duration of the suspension with the frequency of the sessions left to the discretion of the treating therapist. The therapist must review and sign this Consent Order and agree to provide quarterly reports to the Board regarding respondent's treatment progress, diagnosis and prognosis. Respondent may not terminate therapy without the Board's permission. If

Respondent seeks to change therapists, he must notify the Board and provide a curriculum vitae for the new therapist, who must be approved by the Board. An unfavorable report may be considered a violation of this Consent Order. At the conclusion of three years of therapy, the therapist shall submit to the Board a final report assessing respondent's fitness to engage in the practice of social work as a licensed social worker.

4. At the completion of the period of active suspension, beginning in or about June 1, 2010, respondent's social work services shall be supervised by a New Jersey licensed clinical social worker, compliant with N.J.A.C. 13:44G-8.1, proposed by respondent and approved by the Board. The proposed supervisor shall be provided with a copy of this Consent Order. He or she shall submit to the Board a curriculum vitae along with a signed copy of this Consent Order, indicating that he or she has read the Order and agrees to comply with its terms. Respondent and his supervisor shall meet at least one hour per week to review all of respondent's cases. In addition to a review of all client progress notes, the supervision shall focus on boundary issues and the appropriate use of transference and counter-transference in therapeutic relationships. The supervisor shall provide quarterly progress reports regarding supervision of respondent for the period of probation. An unfavorable report may be considered a violation of this Consent Order. In the event the supervisor becomes aware of a boundary violation by respondent, the supervisor shall notify the Board by telephone and in writing within twenty-four hours of learning of the events.

5. Respondent shall fully attend and successfully complete either the PROBE or Prime-E ethics course (or other similar course, if pre-approved by the Board), during

the period of active suspension. Respondent shall provide the Board with proof of successful completion for the course taken.

6. Respondent is hereby assessed civil penalties, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-22, in the amount of \$1,000 for the conduct described herein. Payment of the civil penalties is hereby stayed pending respondent's compliance with the other requirements of this Order. In the event respondent demonstrates full compliance, the civil penalties will no longer be due and payable. In the event respondent fails to comply with any of the terms of this Order the full amount of the civil penalty will be due and payable. Payment shall be submitted by certified check or money order made payable to the State of New Jersey and shall be sent to J. Michael Walker, Executive Director, Board of Social Work Examiners, 124 Halsey Street, Sixth Floor, P.O. Box 45033, Newark, New Jersey 07101. Subsequent violations will subject respondent to enhanced penalties pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-25.

NEW JERSEY BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

By: Doreen J. Bobby
Doreen J. Bobby, MSW, LCSW
Board President

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.

Jared Levine
Jared Levine, LSW

2/13/10
Date

Consent is given as to form and entry of this Order:



 Edward J. Bilinkas, Esq.
 Attorney for Jared Levine, LSW

Feb 23, 2010
 Date

I have read the attached Consent Order. I agree to provide quarterly reports to the Board regarding Jared Levine's progress in therapy, as set forth above.



 (Respondent's Therapist)

2/22/10
 Date

I have read the attached Consent Order. I agree to supervise Jared Levine's practice of social work during face-to-face sessions, and to report quarterly to the Board regarding his progress, as set forth above.

Supervisor Signature

Print name: _____ License #: _____
 Telephone # _____
 (including area code and extension number)