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State Board of Marriage and Family
Therapy Examiners

FILED
September 15, 2010
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR EXAMINERS COMMITTEE
Cheryl L. Mason

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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
SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF
THE LICENSE OF
: Administrative Action
:
DEBBIE A. PASSENTI, R.N., M.A., LPC
LICENSE No. 37PC00314300 : CONSENT ORDER
:
TO PRACTICE PROFESSIONAL
COUNSELING IN THE STATE
OF NEW JERSEY :

This matter was opened before the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee (hereinafter "the Committee") of the New Jersey State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners (hereinafter "the Board") upon review of Ms. Rima A. Mason's application for licensure as a Professional Counselor. Ms. Mason disclosed in her application that she completed 4,678 hours of supervised counseling hours at Affinity Counseling Center in Haledon, New Jersey, a for-profit setting, under the supervision of respondent, Debbie A. Passenti, R.N., M.A., LPC. Ms. Mason disclosed that she began

providing counseling services during January 2005 and that she was not licensed as an Associate Counselor until December 2005. Respondent signed the Documentation of Supervised Experience form admitting that she was Ms. Mason's supervisor at Affinity Counseling Center and also submitted a letter in support of Ms. Mason's application.

It appears to the Committee that respondent, as Ms. Mason's supervisor, aided and abetted the unlicensed practice of professional counseling. Respondent permitted and supervised Ms. Mason's counseling in a for-profit setting despite Ms. Mason's lack of an associate professional counselor license, the minimum requirement for provision of such services in a for-profit setting in New Jersey.

Having reviewed the entire record, the Committee finds that respondent has aided and abetted the unlicensed practice of professional counseling in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(n) and N.J.S.A. 45:8B-39(a). It appearing that the respondent desires to resolve this matter without further proceedings, and the Committee finding this Consent Order to be adequately protective of the public interest, and other good cause appearing;

IT IS THEREFORE ON THIS 15TH DAY OF September, 2010

ORDERED:

1. Respondent shall immediately cease and desist from aiding and abetting the unlicensed practice of professional counseling, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(n) and N.J.S.A. 45:8B-39(a).

2. Respondent is reprimanded for aiding and abetting the unlicensed practice of professional counseling, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(n) and N.J.S.A. 45:8B-39(a).

3. Respondent shall pay a civil penalty in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00). Payment shall be made by certified check or money order, payable to the "State of New Jersey" and sent to Elaine DeMars, Executive Director, Professional Counselor Examiners Committee, P.O. Box 45044, Newark, New Jersey 07101. The civil penalty shall be paid simultaneously with the signing of the within order.

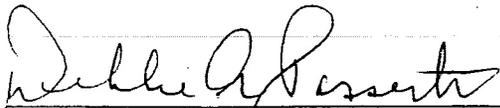
4. Failure to remit payment as required by this Order will result in the filing of a Certificate of Debt and such other proceedings as are permitted by law.

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



J. Barry Mascari, LPC
President

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



Debbie A. Passenti, R.N., M.A., LPC