New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

Division of Consumer Affairs
State Board of Psychological Examiners
124 Halsey Street, 6th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

PAULA T. DOW
Attorney General

THOMAS R. CALCAGNI
Director

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 45017
Newark, NJ 07101
(973) 504-6470

December 6, 2011

By Certified and Regular Mail

FILED WITH THE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS ON December 14, 2011
Michael Haas
Executive Director

Patricia Baszczuk, Ph.D.
501 Iron Bridge Road
Freehold, New Jersey 07728

Re: Offer of Settlement In Lieu of Filing a Formal Disciplinary Complaint

Dear Dr. Baszczuk:

This letter is to advise you that the New Jersey State Board of Psychological Examiners (the "Board") has had an opportunity to review information concerning the complaint submitted by R.G. alleging that your conduct in providing R.G.'s ex-wife with a letter without the knowledge or consent of R.G. constituted professional misconduct in that the letter contained professional impressions and opinions regarding B.G., a former patient of yours and the son of R.G., as well as the details of private conversations between you, R.G. and his wife concerning B.G. that occurred during therapist sessions.

Upon review of all available information, the Board has preliminarily found that probable cause exists to support a finding that your conduct violated confidentiality pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:14B-28 and N.J.A.C. 13:42-8.5(a), and violated confidentiality with respect to minors pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:42-8.3(a) and N.J.A.C. 13:42-8.6, in that you issued a letter containing the confidential information of a former minor patient without the consent of the authorized representatives of the child. The letter to the ex-wife appears to express professional opinions about the former patient and his family, and contains details of conversations that R.G. and his wife had with you during therapy sessions which are confidential.

At this juncture, the Board has preliminarily concluded that the above violations are sufficient to warrant the initiation of formal disciplinary proceedings against you. Notwithstanding that decision, however, the Board has determined that it will first offer you an opportunity to settle this matter, and thereby avoid the initiation of disciplinary proceedings, should you consent to:

1. A reprimand for violating the confidentiality of information obtained from a client in the course of the licensee's practice pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:14B-28 and N.J.A.C.

13:42-8.5(a), and for violating the confidentiality of information obtained from a minor pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:42-8.3(a) and N.J.A.C. 13:42-8.6 by failing to procure consent from the authorized representatives prior to providing the information.

2. A civil penalty in the amount of $1,000.00 that shall be paid immediately upon accepting this letter. Payment shall be made payable by certified check or money order to the NJ State Board of Psychological Examiners and forwarded to the attention of J. Michael Walker, Executive Director, 124 Halsey Street, P.O. Box 45017, Newark, New Jersey 07101.

If you are willing to settle this matter on the offered settlement terms, you may do so by signing the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter, and returning it to the Board office. Upon your signature, this letter will be a matter of public record.

In the event you are unwilling to settle this matter on the offered terms, it will be referred to the Attorney General's office for the initiation of appropriate enforcement action. In such event, you will be afforded an opportunity to defend against the alleged violations. If an evidentiary hearing is deemed warranted the Board will either conduct that hearing at a date and time to be scheduled or refer the matter to the Office of Administrative Law. You are advised, however, that in the event formal charges are filed, the Board may assess civil penalties in an amount greater than that herein offered in settlement should any charges against you be sustained. Additionally, the Board may, if the facts are found to so warrant, enter an order, requiring you to reimburse certain monies and/or requiring you to pay costs incurred by the Board. Should you have any questions concerning this letter or the settlement offer herein, I suggest that you contact Deputy Attorney General, Carmen A. Rodriguez who may be reached at (973) 648-3696.

If you elect to settle this matter presently, you should sign the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter and return it to the Board within fifteen (15) days following your receipt of this letter. In the event that the Board receives no response from you within fifteen (15) days, the Board's settlement offer will be withdrawn, and the matter will be referred to the Attorney General's Office for the initiation of appropriate enforcement proceedings.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF
PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS

By: J. Michael Walker
J. Michael Walker
Executive Director

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2011
Psychology Board

ACKNOWLEDGMENT: I, Patricia Baszczuk, Ph.D., hereby acknowledge that I have read and reviewed the settlement proposal set forth in the above letter. I acknowledge the conduct which has been charged. I am aware that, by signing this acknowledgment, I am waiving any rights I may have to defend myself against any charges of wrongdoing at an administrative hearing. I am also aware that the action taken against me by the Board herein is a matter of public record, and I acknowledge the reprimand and agree to the payment of the civil penalty in the amount of $1000. and that this letter is a public document.

Patricia Baszczuk, Ph.D.

Dated:

cc: Carmen A. Rodriguez, Deputy Attorney General