

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

4/25/12

IN THE MATTER OF

EFTHIMIA GRAY HOMERIDES, CSW  
Certificate No. 44SW01358800

Certified to Practice Social Work in the  
State of New Jersey

Administrative Action

FINAL ORDER  
OF DISCIPLINE

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Social Work Examiners (hereinafter "the Board") upon receipt of information that Efthimia Gray Homerides (hereinafter "respondent"), a Certified Social Worker, was representing herself as a clinical specialist in psychiatric social work and using the designation LCSW (Licensed Clinical Social Worker) and engaging in clinical social work. The Board has reviewed all relevant documentation and makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. On April 7, 1999, former Executive Director of the Board, Leslie G. Aronson, advised respondent by letter that respondent cannot use the designation "LCSW" or "licensed clinical social worker" by her name because respondent was a certified social worker and can only put "CSW" next to her name. In the letter she further advised that a CSW "can not engage in the independent practice of clinical social work for a fee unless the person is licensed under this act as a licensed clinical social worker."

2. Respondent is presently a certified social worker.

3. On December 9, 2004, respondent wrote to the Honorable Judge Rubin of Hunterdon County and stated that a client called and requested counseling and she agreed to meet the client. In the letter respondent used the designation "LCCSW" under her license number.

4. On December 27, 2004, respondent again wrote to the Honorable Judge Rubin of the Family Division and stated that she was engaged in therapy with a client without a fee and included the designation "LCCAASW" under her license number.

5. On March 29, 2005, respondent wrote to the Board stating that she provides daily telephone counseling to a client.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

After being advised in 1999 that respondent had incorrectly signed a letter "LCSW" and that her certification limited the scope of her practice, respondent engaged in therapy and used designations that implied that she was licensed to engage in clinical social work which is beyond the scope of her certification and in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:15BB-4(b) and (d).

### **DISCUSSION ON FINALIZATION**

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline reprimanding respondent and imposing civil penalties on was entered on June 3, 2005, and a copy was served on respondent. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the 30th business day following entry unless respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law by submitting a written request for modification or dismissal setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor. Respondent submitted a letter with voluminous documentation for the Board's consideration.

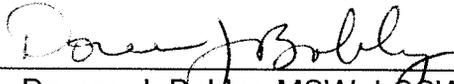
After review of the documentation, the Board requested respondent's appearance before the Board to testify concerning the information she provided. Although the evidence and testimony made clear to the Board that respondent was continuing to use incorrect designations of her licensure status and describing her practice in a way that implied that she was engaging in clinical practice, the Board believes that in fact, the error is in the description and not in the practice itself. It appears that respondent is in fact providing concrete rather than clinical services to her clients. Accordingly, the Board believes mitigation of the penalty set forth in the Provisional Order of Discipline is appropriate in that the evidence presented indicates the respondent is not in fact practicing outside the scope of her certification.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 25th day of April, 2012,

ORDERED that:

1. Respondent is reprimanded for using designations by her name that implied that she was entitled to engage in clinical social work.
2. Respondent shall cease and desist representing her credentials as anything other than "CSW" after her name unless and until she applies for, and is granted, a license to practice social work or clinical social work in the State of New Jersey.

NEW JERSEY BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

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