

JEFFREY S. CHIESA
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY
Division of Law - 5th Floor
124 Halsey Street
P.O. Box 45029
Newark, New Jersey 07101
Attorney for New Jersey Board of Social Work Examiners

**FILED BY THE BOARD OF
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS**

August 8, 2012
J. Michael Walker

By: **Jodi C. Krugman**
Deputy Attorney General
Tel: (973) 648-2436

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION OR
REVOCAION OF THE LICENSE OF**

Administrative Action

JULIE E. ANTONE, LCSW
LCSW License No.: 44SC05337300

CONSENT ORDER

**TO PRACTICE CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Social Work Examiners (the "Board") upon receipt of information that respondent Julie E. Antone ("Respondent") was discharged from her position at Bergen Regional Medical Center, where she was employed as a clinical social worker. The complaint alleged that respondent had engaged in an inappropriate sexual relationship with a current client, M.S., and became upset and cried hysterically in front of a co-worker when the client broke off the relationship. In addition, respondent had a sexual relationship with a prior client while serving as her therapist.

Respondent denied the allegations, and was scheduled to appear at an investigative inquiry to testify regarding the allegations. Prior to the scheduled date of the inquiry, at the direction of her

attorney, respondent was evaluated by a psychiatrist, Dr. Harvey Hammer, and respondent authorized the release of his evaluation to the Board. Respondent has admitted that she had sexual relationships with two clients: the first began within 24 months of the client ending therapy and ended in May 2011 and the second began while she was the client's treating therapist and ended in November 2011. Respondent admits that these relationships were inappropriate and violated professional boundaries. Dr. Hammer reports that respondent felt no need for him to consult her treating social worker. The evaluation suggests that respondent lacks an understanding of why these boundary violations occurred, and suggested therapy for an "undetermined amount of time."

The Board finds that respondent engaged in sexual misconduct in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:44G-10.7 and professional misconduct, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21 (e) and (h), thereby providing grounds for discipline of respondent's license to practice clinical social work.

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, and for good cause shown;

IT IS on this 8th day of August, 2012,

ORDERED and AGREED that:

1. Effective August 10, 2012, respondent shall surrender her license to practice clinical social work in the State of New Jersey, to be deemed a revocation of her license. Respondent shall not make application for reinstatement of her license for a minimum of two years from the entry of this Order.
2. Upon surrender of her license, respondent shall cease and desist from advertising, offering to engage in or engaging in the practice of clinical social work, mental health therapy or

counseling, or the provision of social work services in New Jersey in any setting, including exempt settings as defined by N.J.S.A. 45:15BB-5.

3. Respondent shall surrender her wall certificate, wallet certificate, and her most recent renewal card of her license to practice as a clinical social worker by mailing them to J. Michael Walker, Executive Director, Board of Social Work Examiners, P. O. Box 45033, Newark, New Jersey 07101, contemporaneously with her signing of this Order.

4. Respondent shall not apply for reinstatement until she obtains an in-depth, current evaluation from a Board-approved psychiatrist who has not previously treated respondent, that addresses, among other things, respondent's conduct underlying this Order, her readiness to re-enter clinical practice and the likelihood she will repeat her behavior, as well as suggestions, if any, for limitations on her practice. This evaluation must be provided to the Board with any application for reinstatement.

5. Upon any application for reinstatement, respondent shall:

- a. Provide the Board with complete treatment records and reports from each and every mental health professional (including but not limited to: psychologists, social workers, counselors, therapists, psychiatrists) who have participated in respondent's care and/or treatment during the period of time from the date of her dismissal from Bergen Regional Medical Center to her application for reinstatement. Respondent shall ensure that any treatment addresses boundary issues, transference and counter-transference, and that all treating professionals have reviewed this Order. Respondent shall also provide an evaluation from each mental health professional who has treated her which indicates respondent's diagnosis, status, an opinion as to respondent's readiness to resume clinical social work practice and the likelihood she will repeat her behavior, as well as any suggestions for restrictions on her practice.
- b. Provide the Board with a full account of her activities and employment during the intervening period of time from the entry of this Order to her application for reinstatement.
- c. Appear before the Board or a committee thereof to discuss her conduct, her treatment, her understanding of boundary issues and the reasons she believes

the conduct at issue will not recur, and her general readiness to reenter the practice of clinical social work

6. If respondent's license to practice clinical social work is reinstated, the Board, in its discretion, may impose any conditions or restrictions on licensure it deems necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare. By way of example, the Board may require respondent to work under supervision, have a monitor present, or require that she practice only in limited settings.

7. Any practice in this State in violation of the above conditions shall constitute unlicensed practice and/or grounds for discipline for violation of an Order of the Board as well as professional misconduct.

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.

Julie E. Antone
Julie E. Antone, LCSW

8/7/12
Date

Consent is given as to form and entry of this Order

Stephen H. Schechner
Stephen H. Schechner, Esq.
Attorney for Julie E. Antone, LCSW

8/7/12
Date