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

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 INACTIVATION OF THE LICENSE OF **Heather DeVenuto** License No. 37PC00405100 TO PRACTICE AS A PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	Administrative Action **INTERIM CONSENT ORDER**

This matter was opened to the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee ("Committee") of the New Jersey State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners ("Board") upon receipt of information that Heather DeVenuto, P.C. ("Respondent") had been arrested four times from March 20, 2011 through January 20, 2012. On March 28,

2011, Respondent was arrested by the Paramus Police for Shoplifting in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:20-11B. On May 11, 2011 Respondent was found guilty of Improper Behavior in connection with that arrest and assessed $416.00. On May 20, 2011, Respondent was arrested by the Paramus Police for Shoplifting in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:20-11B(2). On January 5, 2012, Respondent was arrested by the West Milford Police for Attempt to Elude Police in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:29-2B, Resisting Arrest, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:29-2A(3), and Assault on Police, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1B(5)(A). On May 21, 2012, Respondent was found guilty of Assault on Police and Attempt to Elude Police in connection with that arrest. On January 20, 2012, Respondent was arrested by the Rockaway Township Police for Shoplifting, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:20-11. On February 16, 2012, Respondent was found guilty of Shoplifting in connection with her January 20, 2012 arrest, and assessed a penalty of $664.00.

Respondent's failure to respond to two requests by the Executive Director of the Committee for a narrative statement regarding the arrests, as well as Respondent's failure to appear as directed before the Committee for an investigative inquiry on June 7, 2012, resulted in the entry of a Provisional Order of Discipline on July 20, 2012. The July 20, 2012 Order was based upon Respondent's failure to cooperate with a Board investigation, and provisionally suspended Respondent's license to practice

professional counseling until she provided the information requested by the Board in its letters of inquiry, and appeared before the Board as directed to discuss her criminal history and a recent consumer complaint against her. In response to the Provisional Order of Discipline, Respondent submitted a written response through her counsel, Richard West, Esq., and appeared before the Committee with her counsel on September 6, 2012 for an investigative inquiry.

Based upon Respondent's testimony that she is currently in therapy addressing the issues that led to the arrests, and her acknowledgement that she is unable to practice at this time, Respondent now seeks leave to place her license as a professional counselor in the State of New Jersey into inactive status without prejudice and in accordance with the terms of this Order. The Board finding the within disposition to be adequately protective of the public health, safety and welfare,

IT IS, therefore, on this 23 day of ~~October~~ January, 201~~2~~3,

ORDERED THAT:

1. Respondent, Heather DeVenuto, P.C. hereby agrees to the placing of her professional counselor license into inactive status, and she shall refrain from the practice of professional counseling as of the entry of this Order, pending further Order of the Board. The Board will not entertain an application by Respondent to reactivate her license for a minimum period of six (6) months from

the entry of this Order.

2. Respondent shall return her original New Jersey license and current biennial registration contemporaneously with the signing of this Order to Milagros Collazo, Executive Director, Professional Counselor Examiners Committee, P.O. Box 45044, 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey 07101,.

3. Prior to the Board's consideration of an application by Respondent for reactivation of her license to practice professional counseling, Respondent shall submit to the Board documentation of:

a. a comprehensive psychological evaluation with a licensed psychologist pre-approved by the Board;

b. a substance abuse screening with toxicology performed by a licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor ("LCADC") pre-approved by the Board; and

c. a therapy summary from Respondent's current therapist indicating Respondent's therapeutic goals and progress.

4. Subsequent to the Board's review of the documentation listed in Paragraph 3, above, Respondent shall appear, if so requested by the Board, to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board her fitness and competency to reenter practice as a professional counselor, that she is capable of discharging the functions of a licensee in a manner consistent with the public's health, safety and welfare and that she is not then suffering from any impairment or limitation which could affect her practice. At

that time Respondent shall be prepared to (1) discuss her plans for future practice in New Jersey; (2) provide the Board with a full account of her conduct during the intervening period of time from the inactivation of her license to her appearance pursuant to this Order; and (3) to provide documentation of the disposition of any and all arrests from March 28, 2011 to the date of her appearance pursuant to this Order.

5. In the event the Board allows Respondent to reactivate her license, the Board may impose discipline, conditions or restrictions, including but not limited to monitoring, upon Respondent's license at the time of reactivation, as the Board deems appropriate.

By: William Green
William Green
Chair

I have read and understand the within Order and agree to its terms. Consent is hereby given to the Board to enter this Order.

Heather DeVenuto, P.C.

Consented as to form and entry.

Richard A. West 1-20-13

Richard West, Esq.