

FILED

February 18, 2014

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR EXAMINERS COMMITTEE
Shirley P. Dickstein

JOHN J. HOFFMAN
ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY
Division of Law
124 Halsey Street - 5th Floor
P.O. Box 45029
Newark, New Jersey 07101
Attorney for the Professional Counselors Examiners
Committee of the Board of Marriage and Family Therapists

By: Shirley P. Dickstein
Deputy Attorney General
Telephone (973) 648-2779

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS EXAMINERS
COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF MARRIAGE
AND FAMILY THERAPISTS

_____	:	
IN THE MATTER OF	:	Administrative Action
	:	
	:	INTERIM CONSENT ORDER
MICHAEL J. PETERSON	:	OF VOLUNTARY SURRENDER
LICENSE NO. 37AC00173800	:	
	:	
TO PRACTICE AS A LICENSED	:	
ASSOCIATE COUNSELOR	:	
_____	:	

This matter was opened to the Professional Counselors Examiners Committee of the New Jersey State Board of Marriage and Family Therapists ("Committee") upon receipt of information indicating that Michael J. Peterson, Licensed Associate Counselor ("Respondent") was arrested on February 2, 2014 by the Long Branch Police Department for one (1) count of N.J.S.A. 2C:14-2C(3)C, Sexual Assault by Foster Parent, one (1) count of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-9,

Employing Juvenile in the Commission of Crime, one (1) count of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10A(4), Possession of Marijuana/Hash, one (1) count of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10C, Failed to Give Controlled Dangerous Substance to Police, one (1) count of N.J.S.A. 2C:36-2, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and one (1) count of N.J.S.A. 9:6-1, Child Abuse. Specifically, Respondent was arrested at his home with the seventeen year old past crisis patient whom he treated, and it is alleged that he admitted to engaging in a sexual relationship with the client and was found in possession of controlled dangerous substances and drug paraphernalia.

The allegations, if proven, would demonstrate that Respondent has engaged in sexual misconduct, in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:34-19.3, professional misconduct, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-2(e) and an act constituting a crime of moral turpitude which relates adversely to the practice of professional counseling in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(f).

It appearing that Respondent wishes to voluntarily enter into an interim agreement without making admissions and without prejudice to Respondent's ability to defend the allegation against him; the Committee finding that the public health, safety and welfare is adequately protected, and other good cause having been shown;

IT IS on this 18 day of February, 2014;

ORDERED THAT:

1. Respondent is hereby granted leave and shall immediately surrender his license to practice as an associate counselor in the State of New Jersey pending disposition of the criminal charges, and until further Order of the Committee. Respondent shall, contemporaneously with the signing of this Order, mail his license to practice associate counseling to Executive Director Milagros Collazo, Professional Counselors Examiners Committee, State Board of Marriage and Family Therapists, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New Jersey, 07101.

2. Respondent shall immediately cease and desist from holding himself out as a licensed associate counselor and/or practicing as a licensed associate counselor.

3. Nothing herein shall preclude the Committee from initiating disciplinary action based upon the conduct relating to Respondent as alleged above. The entry of the within Order is without prejudice to the further investigation and/or prosecution of any violations by Respondent of any statutes or regulations governing the practice of counseling in the State or any violations of law, by the Committee, the Attorney General, or any other regulatory or law enforcement agency, including but not limited to any pending matters under investigation.

4. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed an admission of liability on the part of the Respondent.

5. Any violation of this order by Respondent shall

constitute grounds for disciplinary action.

PROFESSIONAL EXAMINERS COMMITTEE OF THE STATE
BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS

By: William Green L.R.C.
William Green, L.R.C.
Committee Chair

I have read and understand
the within Consent Order and
agree to be bound by its terms.

Michael J. Peterson
Michael J. Peterson

Dated: 2/12/14