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FILED BY THE BOARD OF
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

May 14, 2014
J. Michael Hester

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Deputy Attorney General
(973) 648-2436

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION :
OF: : Administrative Action
: :
MESHULEM EPSTEIN, MSW : **CONSENT ORDER OF**
: **LICENSURE**
FOR LICENSURE AS A CLINICAL :
SOCIAL WORKER 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 an application from respondent Meshulem Epstein ("respondent") for licensure as a licensed clinical social worker in New Jersey. Respondent received a license to practice clinical social work in Pennsylvania on July 11, 2003, but has never held a license to practice social work in New Jersey.

As part of his application, respondent was required to provide supervisor's recommendations and proof of supervised hours. He submitted a letter explaining that he currently could not contact his supervisors, so he requested that the state of Pennsylvania submit to the Board the proof of supervised hours used for his application for licensure as a clinical social worker in Pennsylvania.

Although respondent did not disclose the information on his application, the documents obtained from the Pennsylvania Board indicated that respondent worked under supervision at the Lakewood Institute for Individual and Family Enrichment ("LIIFE"), in Lakewood, New Jersey, from January 2001 until June 2003. The description of respondent's work provided by his supervisor indicated that respondent provided psychotherapy to clients with a variety of disorders, including mood and anxiety disorders. In response to the Board's request for additional information about his work at LIIFE, respondent submitted a Curriculum Vitae indicating that he worked as a psychotherapist at LIIFE from April 2001 until 2007, and provided "[a]dult and adolescent psychotherapy specializing in Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, Anxiety and at-risk teens."

Having reviewed respondent's application and additional submissions, it appears to the Board that respondent engaged in the practice of clinical social work in New Jersey for a period of six years when he was not licensed to do so, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:15BB-4 and N.J.A.C. 13:44G-1.3, and made a misrepresentation on his application due to his failure to include the information about his work in New Jersey. Respondent's conduct provides grounds to deny his application for a license to practice clinical social work or impose a disciplinary sanction pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(a), (b) and (h).

The parties desiring to resolve this matter without recourse to formal proceedings, respondent having expressly waived his right to a hearing in this matter, and the Board finding that entry of this Order adequately protects the public health, safety, and welfare, for good cause shown;

IT IS ON THIS 14th DAY OF May, 2014,

HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. Respondent shall be granted a license to practice clinical social work in the State of New Jersey subject to the restrictions set forth herein, as well as payment of all necessary fees and completion of a criminal history background check.

2. For a period of one year after the beginning of active practice in New Jersey following entry of this Order, respondent's license to practice clinical social work shall be supervised weekly by a New Jersey licensed clinical social worker, not previously known by respondent, who satisfies the requirements of N.J.A.C. 13:44G-8.1 and who shall be pre-approved by the Board following submission of his or her credentials to the Board. The prospective supervisor shall be provided with a copy of this Consent Order. He or she shall submit to the Board a signed copy of this Consent Order, indicating that he or she has read the Order and agrees to comply with its terms. The supervisor shall provide quarterly progress reports regarding supervision of Respondent for the one-year period. An unfavorable report may be considered a violation of this Consent Order. At the conclusion of one year of supervision, the supervisor shall submit to the Board a final report assessing Respondent's ability to engage in the independent clinical practice of social work. Respondent may not terminate supervision without the consent of the Board.

3. Respondent shall successfully complete ten (10) credits of in-person continuing education courses relating to ethics. These ten credits shall be completed within six months of entry of this Order, and shall be in addition to the biennial requirement of forty (40) credits for the renewal of respondent's license. Respondent shall provide the Board with proof of successful completion for each course taken within thirty (30) days of completion.

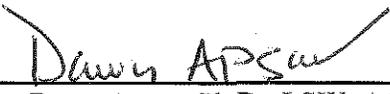
4. Respondent is hereby assessed civil penalties, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-22, in the amount of \$2,500 for the violations set forth herein. Payment of the civil penalties shall be

submitted by certified check or money order made payable to the State of New Jersey and shall be sent to J. Michael Walker, Executive Director, Board of Social Work Examiners, 124 Halsey Street, Sixth Floor, P.O. Box 45033, Newark, New Jersey 07101, contemporaneously with the signing of this Consent Order. Subsequent violations will subject respondent to enhanced penalties pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-25.

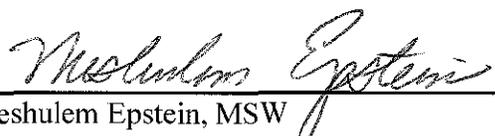
5. Until further Order of the Board, Respondent shall provide a copy of this consent order to any employer, prior to beginning employment, and obtain consents necessary to discuss his practice with a supervisor. Respondent shall ensure his employer sends the Board a letter acknowledging that the order has been read and reviewed by the employer.

6. Respondent may not engage in the independent or private practice of social work in New Jersey without supervision until further Order of the Board, which shall not be entered until respondent has demonstrated proof of compliance with all terms of this Order. In the event of a violation of this Order, or if the supervisor's final report is unfavorable or suggests limitations or restrictions on respondent's practice, the Board reserves the right to extend supervision or impose such other restrictions as the Board deems appropriate.

NEW JERSEY BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

By: 
Dawn Apgar, Ph.D., LSW, ACSW
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.


Meshulem Epstein, MSW

4/9/14
Date