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FILED BY THE BOARD OF
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

J. Michael Walker
Executive Director
October 8, 2014

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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 :
FOR REINSTATEMENT OF THE LICENSE OF :
: Administrative Action
S. GEOFFREY WHITE, LCSW :
License No. 44SC04609600 : 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 an application for reinstatement of Respondent Geoffrey White's ("Respondent") license to practice clinical social work in the State of New Jersey. In connection with that application, the Board received information that after respondent's license had expired on August 31, 2010, respondent continued to engage in the practice of social work and held himself out to be a licensed clinical social worker.

Respondent had failed to timely renew his license in 2008; it was reinstated on January 22, 2009.

Respondent appeared with counsel, Leonard J. Coates, Esq. at an inquiry into the matter before the Board. At the inquiry, Respondent testified that he had engaged in the practice of ~~clinical social work without a valid license.~~ Respondent testified that at first, he thought he already properly renewed his license, but after he realized it was not renewed, he wrote to the Board to request information to properly renew his license. At that point however, his license had expired and he needed to reinstate it. Respondent further testified that he had become concerned about a patient who was in very poor health, and spent a significant amount of time with her. As a result, Respondent did not follow-up on reinstatement of his license in a timely manner.

Respondent also testified that he practices "Energy Medicine." Respondent explained that "Energy Medicine" involves the practitioner tapping, massaging, or twisting, specific energy points (acupoints) on the patient's skin. Respondent explained that he uses "Energy Medicine" in conjunction with his clinical social work practice.

Having reviewed the entire record, including Respondent's letters to the Board, and testimony, it appears to the Board that Respondent continued to practice clinical social work without an active license, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-7.1, N.J.S.A.

45:15BB-4, N.J.A.C. 13:44G-7.1, and N.J.A.C. 13:44G-9.3, which provides grounds to take disciplinary action against his license to practice clinical social work in the State of New Jersey pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and (h). The parties desiring to resolve this matter without recourse to formal proceedings, respondent ~~waiving any right to a hearing, and the Board finding that entry of~~ this Order adequately protects the public health, safety, and welfare, and for other good cause shown:

IT IS THEREFORE ON THIS 8th DAY OF October 2014,

HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Respondent's license shall be reinstated subject to the conditions set forth in this Order.
2. Respondent shall undergo and successfully complete a criminal history record background check, pay all reinstatement fees and submit proof of the necessary continuing education credits prior to his license being reinstated.
3. Upon reinstatement, Respondent's license to practice social work shall be and hereby is suspended for six (6) months, all to be stayed and served as a period of probation, contingent on compliance with the terms of this Order and the laws governing social work in the State of New Jersey.

4. In addition to regular continuing education requirements, set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:44G-6.2, Respondent shall take six (6) credits of continuing education courses relating to boundaries and six (6) credits of continuing education courses relating to counter-transference, all to be completed within sixty (60) days ~~from the date of entry of this written Order~~, and Respondent shall provide the Board with proof of successful completion for each course taken within thirty (30) days of completion.

5. Within sixty days of the entry of this order, Respondent shall undergo a psychological evaluation by an evaluator pre-approved by the Board, and Respondent shall comply with all treatment recommendations. Respondent shall bear the full cost of the evaluation, but the report of the evaluation shall be furnished to the Board.

6. Respondent is hereby assessed civil penalties, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-22(b) and N.J.S.A. 45:1-25(a), in the amount of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) for the unlicensed practice of clinical social work described above. Said penalty shall be paid by certified check or money order made payable to the State of New Jersey and submitted to J. Michael Walker, Executive Director, State Board of Social Work Examiners, PO Box 45033, New Jersey 07101, contemporaneously with the signing of this Consent Order.

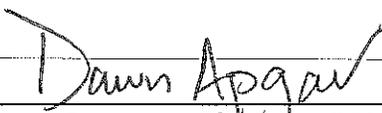
7. Respondent is hereby assessed costs of investigation/inquiry, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45: 1-25(b), in the amount of four hundred, seventy-seven dollars and fifty cents (\$477.50). Said payment is due upon signing this Order and shall be paid by certified check or money order, made payable to the State of New Jersey and submitted to J. Michael Walker, Executive Director, State Board of Social Work Examiners, at the address set forth in paragraph 6 above.

8. Respondent shall not use or advertise his LCSW credentials in connection with his practice of "Energy Medicine," and shall not engage in the practice of energy medicine in conjunction with his practice of clinical social work.

9. In the event the Board receives information during the probationary period which the Board in its sole discretion deems reliable that respondent has failed to comply with any of the terms of this Consent Order, the Board may immediately enter an order making respondent's period of stayed suspension active. Respondent shall have the right to apply to the Board to request a hearing, on seven (7) days' notice, for removal of the automatic suspension, but the application shall be limited to a showing that the information submitted to the Board was false or inaccurate.

10. Respondent is reminded of his obligation to renew his license in a timely manner, as required by N.J.S.A. 45: 1-7.1b and c.

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.


S. Geoffrey White, LCSW

5.9.14
Date

Consent is given as to form and entry of this Order.


Leonard J. Coates, Esq.
Attorney for S. Geoffrey White, LCSW

5/9/2014
Date