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Counselor Committee of the New Jersey  
State Board of Marriage and Family  
Therapy Examiners

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**FILED**  
*24 November 2014*  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS  
ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR COMMITTEE  
*Melagias Plalazy*

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR  
COMMITTEE OF THE STATE BOARD OF  
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION  
OF THE LICENSE OF

**DONNA THORNTON**  
License No. 37LC00194500

TO PRACTICE CLINICAL ALCOHOL  
& DRUG COUNSELING  
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Administrative Action

ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION

The New Jersey State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners, Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee ("Committee"), has received and reviewed the following information:

1. Donna Thornton ("respondent"), License No. 37LC00194500, was initially licensed to practice as a licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor (LCADC) in this State on January 10, 2013.
2. Respondent did not renew her license to practice clinical alcohol and drug counseling prior to its expiration on July 31, 2014, or in the 30 days following its expiration, and has not renewed or attempted to renew her license since that time.

3. On or about July 12, 2013, respondent was terminated for cause (positive urine drug screens) from John Brooks Recovery Center. Respondent appeared before members of the Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee for an investigative inquiry on November 22, 2013. The purpose of the inquiry was to obtain information concerning her employment termination. Based on a review of respondent's testimony, the Committee decided that further investigation was required.

4. Respondent was arrested on August 16, 2014, by the Berlin Township Police Department and charged with violating N.J.S.A. 2C:20-11(B)(1) (shoplifting). On September 11, 2014, respondent, guilty of the charge, was sentenced to 10 Days Community Service and assessed a fine of \$508.00.

5. By letter dated August 27, 2014, the Committee requested respondent to appear before the Committee for an investigative inquiry on October 25, 2014 to provide certain information concerning the charges. Respondent did not appear as requested.

6. Respondent's failure to renew her license for the biennial registration period August 1, 2014 through July 31, 2016, resulted in a lapsed license status as of August 31, 2014, and provides grounds to automatically suspend Respondent's license to practice clinical alcohol and drug counseling in the State of New Jersey pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-7.1(b).

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 24 day of November, 2014,

ORDERED THAT:

1. Donna Thornton's license to practice clinical alcohol and drug counseling in the State of New Jersey shall be, and hereby is, suspended by operation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-7.1(b), without a hearing. Any practice of clinical alcohol and drug counseling during the period in which she does not hold an active license shall be deemed the unlicensed practice of clinical alcohol and drug counseling and shall subject her to disciplinary action.

2. If respondent seeks reinstatement of her New Jersey license, she shall appear before the Committee to establish that she is fit to practice clinical alcohol and drug counseling in this State and to provide information concerning the criminal charge and other information related to her practice.

3. The Committee reserves the right to deny reinstatement, take disciplinary action and place restrictions and/or limitations upon respondent's license to practice clinical alcohol and drug counseling in the State of New Jersey.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR COMMITTEE  
OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF  
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS

By:

  
Edward Reading, Ph.D., LCADC  
Committee Chair