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Examiners, Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee

FILED
24 April 2015
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS
ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR COMMITTEE
Melissa DeLuca

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF :
: Administrative Action
PATRICK ROFF :
: CONSENT ORDER
TO BE LICENSED AS A CLINICAL :
ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR :
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY :

The New Jersey State Board of State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners, Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee ("Committee") reviewed the application of Patrick Roff ("Mr. Roff") to be licensed as a clinical alcohol and drug counselor. Information reviewed included a complaint received from D.R., who alleged that Mr. Roff surrendered his teaching license, to be deemed a revocation, to the State of Colorado Department of Education for conduct related to interactions with a minor female

student. The complainant further alleged that Mr. Roff had engaged in boundary violations by offering to provide counseling services to D.R.'s child while Mr. Roff was in a relationship with D.R.'s wife.

Mr. Roff appeared at an investigative inquiry before the Committee without counsel on January 24, 2014. He acknowledged that he had surrendered his Colorado teaching license to avoid that State revoking the license. He testified that action was taken after it became known that in or about 2006 he had become "close" to a minor student who was enrolled in an alternative high school for high risk students. The student, whom Mr. Roff stated was 17 years old at the time, had drug and alcohol problems and had a small child. Mr. Roff, who was nearly twenty years older than the student, became friendly with the student, gave her rides, and spoke with her on the phone. He allowed the student to stay overnight at his home while his wife was away. He admitted that he had given her wine to drink on one occasion. He denied that the relationship was sexual.

Mr. Roff testified that he was abusing alcohol in 2006. After the action taken by the Colorado Board of Education, he came back to New Jersey and he went through a detoxification program. He testified that he has since remained sober. When asked whether he knew what happened to the student, Mr. Roff said that he connected with her again in 2008. She came to New Jersey and they married. He moved with her back to Colorado and divorced her shortly thereafter. Mr. Roff attributed the divorce, in part, to her lack of sobriety. As to allegations of wrongdoing by D.R., Mr. Roff denied that he had offered any counseling services to D.R.'s family members, stating that the allegations made by D.R. were motivated by the break-up of his marriage.

Following the inquiry, the Committee requested that Mr. Roff submit to an

independent psychological evaluation by Daniel N. Watter, Ed.D. Dr. Watter, in his report, attributes Mr. Roff's serious boundary violations to his then active alcohol addiction. Citing to Mr. Roff's eight years of sobriety, Dr. Watter offered his opinion that with restrictions, there would not be a psychological reason that Mr. Roff should not be licensed.

After review of the record created, including Mr. Roff's testimony and Dr. Watter's report, the Committee will issue a license as a clinical alcohol and drug counselor subject to the restrictions in this consent order. The Committee notes that Mr. Roff has made efforts to address his alcoholism, and appears to be maintaining his sobriety. He is in counseling and attends AA meetings. But Mr. Roff's past conduct raises significant concerns, and the Committee will not tolerate any violation of appropriate boundaries in the performance of his counseling duties. To help ensure his practice is consistent with the public health, safety, and welfare, the Committee will license Mr. Roff with restrictions.

The parties desire to resolve this matter without recourse to formal proceedings, and Mr. Roff has expressly waived his right to be further heard in this matter, and the Committee finds that entry of this Consent Order adequately protects the public health, safety, and welfare, and for good cause shown:

IT IS ON THIS 24 DAY OF April, 2015,

HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. Patrick Roff's application for licensure as a clinical alcohol and drug counselor is granted subject to the restrictions in this consent order.

2. Mr. Roff may practice only in an agency setting, and shall notify the Committee of the name and address of his employer(s) prior to commencing employment. He may not engage in the private practice of alcohol and drug counseling. Mr. Roff may not work with any clients under the age of 21. He must give a copy of this consent order to his employer(s). Each employer must submit to the Committee a letter on agency letterhead that the consent order has been received and reviewed.

3. Mr. Roff shall work only under the supervision of a Committee-approved supervisor for a minimum of two years, beginning with the filing of this order and until further order of the Committee relieving him of the requirement that his supervisor be pre-approved. During the period that Mr. Roff works under supervision, he may not supervise certified alcohol and drug counselors, interns, or students.

(a) Mr. Roff shall advise the Committee of the name and address of his proposed supervisor(s). The supervisor(s) must hold a current, valid CCS credential (Certified Clinical Supervisor).

(b) Mr. Roff's supervisor(s) shall be provided with a copy of this order and shall sign a copy of this order indicating that he or she agrees to supervise Mr. Roff, and to provide quarterly reports to the Committee regarding his practice. The copy of the consent order signed by the supervisor must be provided to the Committee prior to Mr. Roff beginning employment. Reports shall be sent to Milagros Collazo, Executive Director, Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee, P.O. Box 45050, Newark, New Jersey, 07101. The first quarterly report is due ninety days after beginning employment. The supervision may be compensated or uncompensated, but costs related to supervision shall be borne by Mr. Roff.

(c) Mr. Roff shall meet not less than once a week with his supervisor; not more than half of the weekly supervision meetings may be group supervision.

(d) At least 10 days prior to changes in supervisors or employment, Mr. Roff shall submit to the Committee written notification of the change(s), and appear before the Committee if so requested. The Committee reserves the right to grant or deny approval of the proposed supervisor or employment.

(e) All supervisors signing this order agree to submit quarterly reports as required by subparagraph (b) above and to submit written notification immediately to the Committee if Mr. Roff: engages in any activity that violates this consent order; engages in conduct that demonstrates boundary violations; engages in conduct that appears to violate the statutes or regulations governing the practice of alcohol and drug counseling; or appears to have relapsed into substance or alcohol abuse. For purposes of this section, "immediately" means notifying the Committee within 24 hours by phone (973-504-6582), and following up with written notification within 72 hours. If supervision is terminated, the supervisor must provide the reason(s) for ending the supervision. The supervisor agrees to send written notification regarding any change in supervision within ten (10) days of the change. Notifications shall be sent to Milagros Collazo at the address in subparagraph (b) above.

4. Mr. Roff shall submit to quarterly, random urine screens with all testing to be performed by a qualified laboratory or by his personal physician. Screens must include EtG testing. Mr. Roff shall submit to the urine screen on 24 hours notice to submit to the test. Scheduling of the random screens shall be done by his psychotherapist. An unexplained refusal to appear for a urine screen will be considered a positive test result.

Mr. Roff agrees to waive confidentiality regarding the testing and to cause the results of the screens to be submitted to the Committee, attention: Milagros Colazzo, at the address in Paragraph 2(b) above.

5. Mr. Roff shall continue in weekly psychotherapy. The therapist must review and sign this Consent Order, agree to comply with the terms of the order, including agreeing to advise Mr. Roff of the time to submit to random urine screening as set forth in paragraph 4 above. The therapist shall provide quarterly reports to the Board regarding Mr. Roff's progress. The copy of the consent order signed by the therapist must be provided to the Committee within thirty days of the entry of this consent order. If the therapist is aware of any information indicative of a relapse or slip by Mr. Roff, or upon termination of therapy for any reason, the therapist must report any such event to the Committee within 24 hours. Mr. Roff may not terminate therapy without the Committee's permission, and any change in therapist must be reported to the Committee and the credentials of any new therapist must be approved by the Committee. Any unfavorable report may be considered a violation of this Consent Order.

6. Mr. Roff shall continue to attend AA meetings a minimum of three days a week and shall continue to work with his sponsor. Mr. Roff shall certify to the Committee, on a quarterly basis, that he is in compliance with attendance at AA meetings and is working with his sponsor.

7. Not later than May 2016, Mr. Roff shall fully attend and successfully complete a three credit, graduate level course in ethics at an accredited college or university. The course shall be pre-approved by the Committee. Proof of a passing grade shall be submitted to the Committee within two weeks of the course grade being issued by the

academic institution.

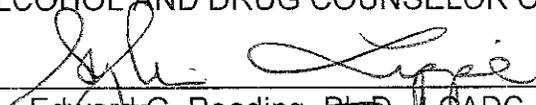
8. Mr. Roff may apply for relief from restrictions in this order not sooner than two years from its entry or after two years of supervised practice, whichever is later. At the Committee's discretion, he may be required to appear before the Committee. The Committee reserves the right to continue the restrictions in this consent order or place other restrictions on Mr. Roff's license at that time should the Committee's review of his practice demonstrate that such restrictions are warranted.

9. Mr. Roff shall notify the Committee within 72 hours of any arrest for, or charges of, any crime or offense involving moral turpitude or relating adversely to the profession of alcohol and drug counseling, and/or any actions taken by his employer(s) related to his professional practice. Notice shall be sent to Ms. Collazo at the address in paragraph 2(b) above.

10. Failure to comply with any of the terms of this consent order may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to suspension or revocation of license.

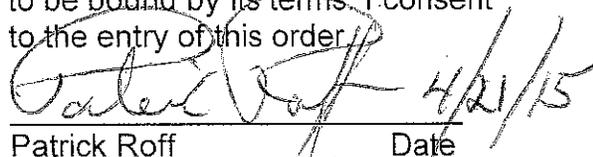
NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND
FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS,
ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR COMMITTEE

By:


Edward G. Reading, Ph.D., LCADC
Vice Committee Chair

Sylvia Lippee, MA, LCADC, CPS, CCS

I have read and understand this
Consent Order and agree
to be bound by its terms. I consent
to the entry of this order.


Patrick Roff

4/21/15
Date

I consent to the form and entry
of this order.

SEN 4-22-15
Steven E. Nelson, Esq. Date