



CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

Division of Consumer Affairs
State Board of Psychological Examiners
124 Halsey Street, 6th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102



ROBERT LOUGY
Acting Attorney General

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

May 5, 2016

STEVE C. LEE
Acting Director

By Certified and Regular Mail

Linda Knust, Psy. D.
617 Union Avenue 3-20
Brielle, New Jersey 08730

FILED WITH THE BOARD OF
PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS
ON June 1, 2016
J. Michael Falke

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 45017
Newark, NJ 07101
(973) 504-6470

Re: Offer of Settlement In Lieu of Filing a Formal Disciplinary Complaint

Dear Dr. Knust:

This letter is to advise you that the New Jersey State Board of Psychological Examiners (the "Board") has had an opportunity to review information concerning a complaint filed by J.Q. regarding an allegation that you as therapist for his child, S.Q., testified in a court proceeding concerning a visitation recommendation against the child having visitation with the father. It is clear from your testimony during the court proceeding and at an investigative inquiry before the Board that you did not meet or interview the father prior to making the recommendation concerning visitation. A review of the submissions in this matter confirms that you were the therapist for the child, S.Q.

Upon review of all available information, it appears to the Board that you as a therapist for S.Q. made a recommendation during your testimony at trial about visitation of the child by J.Q., the child's father, whom you had not evaluated or interviewed. By doing so you engaged in a dual role by acting both as a treating therapist and an evaluator in violation of the dual relationship regulation at N.J.A.C. 13:42-12.3(b).

Therefore, the Board is warning you to be mindful in the future regarding making recommendations regarding visitation, custody or parenting issues when you are acting in the capacity of therapist.

At this juncture, the Board has preliminarily concluded that the above violations are sufficient to warrant the initiation of formal disciplinary proceedings against you. Notwithstanding that decision, however, the Board has determined that it will first offer you an opportunity to settle this matter, and thereby avoid the initiation of formal disciplinary proceedings, should you consent to:

A formal warning is hereby issued for making a recommendation regarding visitation when you were serving in the role of therapist in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:42-12.3(b).

Linda Knust, Psy.D.

Page 2

If you are willing to settle this matter on the offered settlement terms, you may do so by signing the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter, and returning it to the Board office. Upon your signature, this letter will be a matter of public record.

In the event you are unwilling to settle this matter on the offered terms, it will be referred to the Attorney General's office for the initiation of appropriate enforcement action. In such event, you will be afforded an opportunity to defend against the alleged violations. If an evidentiary hearing is deemed warranted the Board will either conduct that hearing at a date and time to be scheduled or refer the matter to the Office of Administrative Law. You are advised, however, that in the event formal charges are filed, the Board may assess civil penalties in an amount greater than that herein offered in settlement should any charges against you be sustained. Additionally, the Board may, if the facts are found to so warrant, enter an order, requiring you to reimburse certain monies and/or requiring you to pay costs incurred by the Board. Should you have any questions concerning this letter or the settlement offer herein, have your attorney, Michael Schoppmann, Esquire, contact either myself or Deputy Attorney General, Carmen A. Rodriguez at (973) 648-3696.

If you elect to settle this matter presently, you should sign the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter and return it to the Board within fifteen (15) days following your receipt of this letter. In the event that the Board receives no response from you within fifteen (15) days, the Board's settlement offer will be withdrawn, and the matter will be referred to the Attorney General's Office for the initiation of appropriate enforcement proceedings.

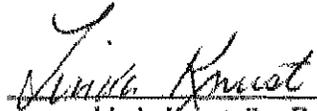
NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF
PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS

By: 
J. Michael Walker
Executive Director

Linda Knust, Psy.D.
Page 3

ACKNOWLEDGMENT: I, Linda Knust, Psy. D. , hereby acknowledge that I have read and reviewed the settlement proposal set forth in the above letter. I acknowledge the conduct which has been charged. I am aware that, by signing this acknowledgment, I am waiving any rights I may have to defend myself against any charges of wrongdoing at an administrative hearing. I am also aware that the action taken against me by the Board herein is a matter of public record, and that this letter is a public document. I hereby agree to a formal warning to refrain from engaging in a dual role by making a recommendation concerning visitation when I served in the role of therapist.

Dated: 5-10-16


Linda Knust, Psy.D.

c: Michael Schoppmann, Esquire
Carmen A. Rodriguez, Deputy Attorney General