

CHRISTOPHER S. PORRINO
ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY
Division of Law
124 Halsey Street
P.O. Box 45029
Newark, New Jersey 07101
Attorney for State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy
Examiners, Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee

FILED
22 July 2016
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS
ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR COMMITTEE
Christine Miller

By: Nancy Costello Miller
Deputy Attorney General
(973) 648-4742

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
:
: **CHRISTINE MISCHENKO**
: **CONSENT ORDER OF**
: **LICENSURE**
:
FOR LICENSURE AS A CLINICAL ALCOHOL :
AND DRUG COUNSELOR :
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY :

The Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee of the New Jersey State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners ("Committee"), has reviewed the application of Christine Mischenko (Ms. Mischenko) for licensure as a clinical alcohol and drug counselor in this State. On her application, Ms. Mischenko disclosed a 2005 conviction for one count of second degree endangering the welfare of a child in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4a, and one count of third degree possession of a controlled dangerous

substance in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C: 35-10(a)1. The underlying conduct occurred when Ms. Mischenko was abusing heroin and physically assaulted an autistic child while in her care. Ms. Mischenko was sentenced to prison. She was released on parole in 2009, and completed parole in 2010.

Ms. Mischenko appeared before the Committee on April 22, 2016, to discuss her application and the conviction, her recovery and rehabilitation, and her current employment. She testified that the conduct underlying the criminal charges occurred during a period of active addiction and expressed remorse for her actions and the harm they caused. Following her imprisonment, Ms. Mischenko completed a Master's Degree in Social Work. In January 2014, the Board of Social Work Examiners granted her application to be licensed as a social worker; that board imposed restrictions on her license, including practicing under the supervision of a board approved supervisor for a minimum of two years, with reports to the board from the supervisor; not treating or providing any social work services to persons under the age of eighteen; engaging in psychotherapy for a minimum of two years with a therapist experienced in addictions, and submitting to random urine monitoring.

The Committee also reviewed the quarterly reports submitted during 2015 to the Board of Social Work Examiners, and two performance evaluations from Ms. Mischenko's employer, New Hope Foundation, a licensed drug rehabilitation facility, detailing her positive performance and noting that she had been promoted to Director of Inpatient Services with administrative responsibilities for daily functions in the New Hope Foundation.

Having reviewed the entire record, it appears to the Committee that while Ms. Mischenko's criminal conviction could provide grounds to deny her application for a license to practice clinical alcohol and drug counseling in New Jersey, she has demonstrated that she has maintained sobriety for a significant period of time and has demonstrated rehabilitation that warrants positive consideration of her application. Ms. Mischenko has met all the conditions required to obtain a license. The Committee finds that, with restrictions similar to those imposed on her by the Board of Social Work Examiners, Ms. Mischenko could engage safely in the practice of alcohol and drug counseling, and present no danger to the public health, safety, and welfare.

The parties now desire to resolve this matter without recourse to formal proceedings. Ms. Mischenko expressly waives any right to a hearing in this matter. The Committee finds good cause for the entry of this Consent Order as it adequately protects the public health, safety, and welfare. Therefore,

IT IS ON THIS 22 DAY OF July, 2016,

HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. Christine Mischenko is granted a license to practice clinical alcohol and drug counseling in the State of New Jersey subject to the restrictions in this consent order, and compliance with administrative requirements, including payment of licensing fees.

2. Ms. Mischenko shall practice under the supervision of a supervisor pre-approved by the Committee for a minimum of six months and shall meet with the supervisor at least once a week during that period. The supervisor shall agree to submit quarterly progress reports regarding Ms. Mischenko's practice, to include an evaluation

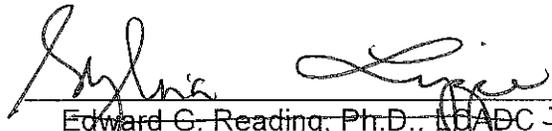
of her clinical skills, her understanding of counseling concepts, and her interaction with clients. At the conclusion of six months, the supervisor shall provide the Committee with the supervisor's assessment of Ms. Mischenko's ability to practice without restrictions. The Committee, at its discretion, may require supervision to continue ... beyond the six month period. Supervision may not be terminated without consent of the Committee.

3. Until further order of the Committee, Ms. Mischenko shall continue engage in psychotherapy at a minimum of once a month and shall cause the treating psychotherapist to provide quarterly reports to the Committee. Therapy shall not be terminated without approval of the treating therapist and the Committee.

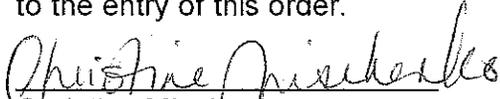
4. Ms. Mischenko shall not treat or provide any alcohol and drug counseling services to anyone under the age of eighteen (18) years until further order of the Committee.

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

By:


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

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


Christine Mischenko

7/11/16
Date