

BEFORE THE  
NORTH CAROLINA MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY LICENSURE BOARD

In Re: )  
 )  
JESSIE SELL, LMFT, ) CONSENT ORDER  
RESPONDENT )  
 )

A complaint having been filed against Respondent with the North Carolina Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Board and after investigation, the Board having found probable cause to believe that Respondent had violated provisions of the Code of Ethics for Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists, in that Respondent has admitted that she engaged in a sexual relationship with a former client.

The Board, through its counsel having notified Respondent of the allegations against Respondent, and Respondent, by and through her counsel admitted to the violation and expressed her desire to work with the Board towards resolution of this matter, and

Counsel for the Board and Counsel for the Respondent having discussed the matters at issue in this case with each other and with their respective clients; and it further appearing that it would serve the ends of justice that a Consent Order be entered which will resolve this matter, and to that end, with the consent of all parties, the Board hereby enters the following Order:

IT IS, BY CONSENT, HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Respondent's license to practice marriage and family therapy will be revoked, effective two weeks from the date this order is signed by the Chair of the Board. The revocation is effective for one year from the effective date.
2. During that two week period, Respondent will notify her existing clients of her ceasing the practice in a manner that is consistent with the AAMFT Code of Ethics, including proper termination and referral. Any termination letters to her clients would be reviewed by the North Carolina Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Board's Ethics Chair prior to delivery. Respondent will remove her professional website from the web, and remove any web-based or other media advertising her practice as a marriage and family therapist or mental health professional. Respondent will submit an affidavit to the Board that she has ceased the practice of marriage and family therapy within 3 days of the effective date of revocation. Respondent agrees that she will not have contact with former clients once the termination is complete.
3. If Respondent seeks to reapply for licensure, she will, within the three months prior to the expiration of the revocation, obtain a fitness to practice evaluation. This will be at Respondent's expense. The evaluator must be approved by the Board in advance. The evaluator can be any licensed mental health professional qualified to perform such an evaluation. The evaluator cannot be a mental health professional that is a current or former treatment provider, colleague, professor, or former supervisor. Once approved by the Board, the Board will submit to the

evaluator the information required in the evaluation. Respondent consents for the Board to provide the evaluator with redacted copies of the complaint, texts, emails and therapy notes relating to the present complainant, and any other information relating to Respondent on file with the Board. Respondent will allow the evaluator to access Respondent's treatment provider and that provider's records. The examination may include psychological testing. The evaluation will be provided to the Board. Licensure is contingent upon a finding by the evaluator that Respondent is fit to practice, as well as the Board's review and agreement that the Respondent would be fit to practice marriage and family therapy. If the Board issues a license, it may put additional restrictions based upon any information from this evaluation.

4. If Respondent chooses to reapply for licensure, she shall submit an application and pay the application fee of \$200.00, as set forth in N.C.G.S. § 90-270.57. As part of this application, Respondent must show that during the period of revocation she obtained all of the continuing education hours for the year of revocation that would otherwise be needed to maintain her licensure during that year. This requirement does not obligate Respondent to complete any continuing education hours prior to the surrender of her license, in order to be in compliance with any continuing education requirements that may apply prior to the date of surrender. In addition, she must also show that she completed 6 additional hours of continuing education in the area of dual relationships/professional boundaries. Respondent would appear for an interview with the Board as part of her application process at a time and place designated by the Board.

5. If licensed is issued Respondent shall obey all laws, and all rules, regulations, and ethical requirements involving the practice of therapy.

6. Respondent has represented that she is currently in therapy. Respondent will follow the recommendations of her personal treatment provider regarding her continued treatment needs. Respondent agrees to sign a release to allow the therapist to contact the Board, and will supply the Board with the name and contact information of the therapist. Respondent consents that her treatment provider will notify the Board if the Respondent discontinues therapy prior to the Respondent's successful completion of therapy.

7. Respondent agrees that if she is issued a license, she will be on probationary status for a period of at least two years. She will have to inform prospective clients of her probationary status prior to entering into a contract for services. Written evidence of her client's awareness of her probationary status must be made available to the Board upon request.

8. As part of the application process the Respondent will supply the Board the name of an impartial AAMFT Approved Supervisor, who will agree to provide ongoing supervision to Respondent as set out in this order. The Board must approve this supervisor prior to Respondent engaging said Supervisor's services.

9. Respondent will work under the supervision of this AAMFT and Board approved Supervisor for the period she is on probationary status. Respondent would have a minimum of 1 hour per week of face to face supervision during the first year of probation. The Supervisor shall report the status of the Respondent's clinical fitness and compliance with the supervision process to the Board once per month, in a manner proscribed by the Board, unless an issue arises that needs to

be reported sooner. The Supervisor shall make a recommendation concerning ongoing supervision after the first year of probation. After this first year, the Board will review the recommendation to determine what level of supervision would be appropriate for the remaining year of probation.

10. Respondent shall share with the supervisor the redacted documentation concerning this complaint and consents for the Board to release any other documentation from her Board file that would be relevant to the issues for which she is being supervised

11. The Respondent will provide the supervisor a copy of this consent order.

12. The supervisor will specifically work with Respondent on ethics issues and professional boundaries. Respondent agrees to allow the supervisor to communicate freely with the Board.

13. At the end of the two year probationary period if Respondent has not complied with this order, or the therapist or supervisor reports indicate that Respondent is not prepared to practice independently, the Board will review this matter and make further determinations as to required ongoing probationary status and supervision. Respondent will receive copies of all recommendations from her therapist and/or her supervisor, and will have a chance to present information to the Board concerning removing her probationary status.

14. During the probationary period Respondent shall notify the Board in writing of any change in her residence or practice address within ten (10) days of the change.

15. Respondent shall have no contact with the individual who filed the complaint outside the context of any legal proceedings.

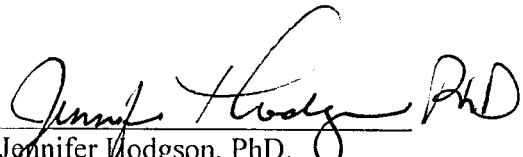
16. Respondent agrees that if she is licensed and fails to comply with any of the terms above, that such a failure shall constitute a breach of this consent decree, and unprofessional conduct and shall be grounds, after any required notice and hearing, for the Board to annul, suspend, or revoke her license and deny any application that she might make in the future for a license.

17. Respondent acknowledges that this consent order is a matter of public record.


18. If Respondent fully complies with all the requirements set forth by this Order during the period of revocation; is found fit to practice by the Board based upon the professional evaluation and the Board interview; meets all requirements set forth in this Order relating to the re-application process; and otherwise meets all of the statutory criteria for licensure, the Board will not deny Respondent a license, with such newly granted license being subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this Order.

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This 18 day of April, 2013.

  
Jennifer Hodgson, PhD.  
Chairperson, NCMFTLB

CONSENTED TO:

  
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Jessie Sell