

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY

CASES 2019 - 02, 04

IN A MATTER  
BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA  
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY LICENSURE BOARD

IN RE:

Dr. DANIEL STILLWELL,  
Respondent

)  
)  
)  
)  
)  
)

**CONSENT ORDER**

THIS CAUSE coming to be heard and being heard before the North Carolina Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Board (the "Board") at its April 2020 meeting, pursuant to a statement of charges, which charges are pending; and

IT APPEARING to the Board that the Respondent has stipulated to certain facts and to the entry of a Consent Order in conformity therewith;

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED by the undersigned Respondent and the Board that:

1. Respondent was at all times relevant to this matter a licensed marriage and family therapist and is subject to the Board's jurisdiction pursuant to the Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Act, Chapter 90, Article 18C of the North Carolina General Statutes.
2. During 2018, Respondent was an assistant professor at a local

university and an American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy - approved supervisor.

3. On a single occasion in July 2018, Respondent substituted as the clinical supervisor for one instance of group supervision in the Marriage and Family Therapy program at the university while he was engaged in an intimate relationship with a student in the class.
4. In February 2019, two complaints were filed with the Board alleging, *inter alia*, that the Respondent engaged in conduct which violated provision 4.3 of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Code of Ethics (2015), which standards have been adopted by North Carolina General Statute 90-270.60(a)(9) and 21 NCAC 31.0609. In May 2019, counsel for Respondent provided the Board a response to the complaints, denying any violation.
5. On March 11, 2020, following investigation, the Board provided Respondent and his counsel a statement of charges in this matter, including violations of the above ethics provision, as well as of North Carolina General Statute 90-270.60(a) and of 21 North Carolina Administrative Code 31.0609.
6. The Board has complied with all notice, procedural and other requirements relating to Respondent and this matter imposed by

all applicable law.

7. The Board has jurisdiction over the person of the Respondent in this matter and over the subject matter of this proceeding.
8. The Respondent and the Board have agreed to resolve this matter by the Respondent's license being placed on probation for a period of one (1) year, during which time Respondent will
  - (a.) take six (6) ethics hours of continuing education regarding relationships/boundaries over and above the standard requirements for continuing education during one (1) year and
  - (b.) reimburse the Board \$2,400.00 for investigation costs, to be paid in installments of the Respondent's choosing during the one year probationary period, all effective only upon approval by the Board and the signing of this Consent Order by both parties hereto. During this one year probationary period, Respondent will be permitted to see current clients, take on new clients and utilize his license without restriction, subject to the terms of this Order.
9. The parties are entering into this Consent Order to avoid the delay, uncertainty, inconvenience and expense of conducting a hearing with respect to these matters.
10. Respondent expressly waives any right he may have to a hearing in this matter, to the making of finding of facts and conclusions

of law and to any judicial review of this matter.

11. The Respondent forever releases the State of North Carolina, the Board, and all its members, officials, agents and representatives, both past and present, in their individual or official capacities from any and all liability, suits, claims, and causes of action, arising prior to or as a result of the execution of this Consent Order.
12. This Consent Order contains the entire agreement between the parties, there being no agreement of any kind, verbal or otherwise, which varies, alters or adds to this Consent Order.
13. The Respondent acknowledges that prior to signing this Consent Order he has been provided with legal advice concerning every aspect of this Consent Order from his attorney.
14. The Respondent acknowledges and agrees that he has entered into and signed this Consent Order voluntarily and without coercion or duress.
15. The Respondent acknowledges and agrees that this Consent Order will become effective on the date it is signed and dated by the Board's Chair.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED as follows:

- I. Respondent's license to practice as a Marriage and Family Therapist is hereby placed on probation for a period of one (1) year;
- II. During the probationary period, Respondent shall take six (6) ethics hours of continuing education regarding relationships/boundaries beyond the standard requirements during a one-year period;
- III. Respondent shall reimburse the Board for investigation costs in the amount of \$2,400.00, to be paid in installments of the Respondent's choosing during the probationary period;
- IV. Upon successful completion of the above conditions and no valid ethics complaints against the Respondent prior to the expiration of the probationary period, Respondent may make a written request that the Board release him from probation, which the Board shall grant as long as all conditions have been fulfilled; and
- V. The Board shall maintain this Consent Order as a public record pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 90-270.60(f).

This the eighteenth (18<sup>th</sup>) of May, 2020.

CONSENTED TO BY:


North Carolina Marriage and Family  
Therapy Licensure Board

By: 

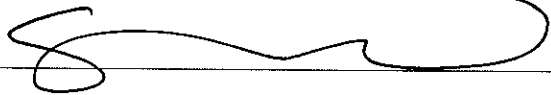
Christopher Rodriguez, Chair

Date: May 18, 2020

The Respondent:



Daniel Stillwell



Suzanne Walker,

Attorney for Respondent