

BEFORE THE  
NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

In Re:

Elizabeth C. Hopkins, LPC  
RESPONDENT

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)  
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)

CONSENT ORDER

MAR 30 2007

Respondent Elizabeth C. Hopkins, LPC, self-reported a violation of the ACA Code of Ethics, specifically, Respondent acknowledged an inappropriate sexual relationship with a client resident of a facility in which she was employed. The relationship lasted from April 8, 2006 to April 25, 2006. During this time period, Respondent was on medical leave from the facility, and did not provide counseling to the client after the inappropriate relationship commenced.

Respondent reported the relationship to her employer upon returning to work at the end of April, 2006, and resigned from the facility on May 1, 2006. Respondent has not provided counseling in any capacity since May 1, 2006. Based upon this self-report, the Board finds probable cause to believe that respondent had violated provisions of the Code of Ethics for Licensed Professional Counselors.

Counsel for the Board and Respondent, having discussed the matters at issue in this case with each other and Counsel for the Board with her client; 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;

1. Respondent shall be allowed to renew her license, subject to the terms and conditions of this order.

2. Respondent's license is hereby suspended for a period of one year. In view of the Respondent's having self-reported this violation, and her voluntary withdrawal from the practice of counseling, the period of suspension is deemed to have started on 17 May 2006, the day she entered professional therapy.

3. Respondent shall continue with her professional therapy until at least 1 November 2007, and shall continue such therapy after that date if the Board so directs.

4. At the conclusion of the one year suspension, the therapist or therapists shall report to the Board regarding Respondent's emotional and ethical fitness to practice counseling.

5. If the therapists recommend that Respondent is in fact fit to practice, and the Board agrees with that assessment, Respondent will be allowed to practice under supervision of a Board approved supervisor for a one year period to begin upon Board approval of the supervisor. The supervision will be 1 hour per 40 hours of clinical practice. The supervisor shall report to the Board on a quarterly basis. The first six months of Respondent's practice shall be listed as probation on the Board website.

6. Respondent shall successfully complete a three hour continuing education course on Ethics.

7. Respondent shall maintain all required CEU's for her renewal which will be due in 2008.

8. Respondent shall abide by the ACA Code of Ethics.

9. This consent order is effective as of 17 May 2006.

10. Failure of Respondent to abide by the terms of this agreement can be grounds for further disciplinary action by the Board upon a showing of probable cause and due notice to Respondent.

This 23<sup>d</sup> day of March, 2007.

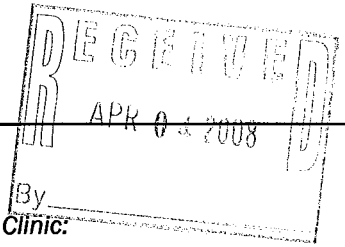
Christine Greene  
Christine Greene  
Chairperson, NCBLPC

CONSENTED TO:

Elizabeth C. Hopkins, LPC, Respondent  
Elizabeth C. Hopkins, LPC, Respondent

# Family Works Psychological Center, PLLC

Debora Kashgarian, PhD, *Clinical Psychologist, Executive Director*  
Guy Kashgarian, PhD, *Clinical Psychologist, Clinical Director*



## Mailing Address/Main Office:

Family Works Psychological Center  
2002 Eastwood Road, Suite 305  
Wilmington, NC 28403

Phone Number: (910) 509-0588  
Fax Number: (910) 509-0586

## Satellite Clinic:

Family Works Psychological Center  
505-F North Spence Avenue  
Goldsboro, NC 27534

Phone Number: (919) 778-8551  
Fax Number: (919) 778-8552

April 2, 2008

Ms. Jennifer Robinson, Administrator  
NC Board of Professional Counselors  
PO Box 1369  
Garner, NC 27529-1369

Dear Ms. Robinson,

I am writing this letter at the request of my patient Ms. Elizabeth Clay Hopkins, MS.

On May 17, 2006 Ms. Hopkins became my patient. She sought psychotherapy with me after admitting that she had had a brief sexual relationship with a client and had violated her professional ethics as a counselor. Since this date I have seen her 31 times for individual psychotherapy, as well as her being seen with her fiancé by my husband, Guy Kashgarian, PhD, for a total 11 Couples/Family Therapy Sessions. She continues to see me and appears committed to addressing any issues that may arise.

Ms. Hopkins has from the beginning admitted her ethical violation to me and stated she voluntarily reported this to the Board of Professional Counselors. In our psychotherapeutic work she has rigorously taken responsibility for her actions and has made an ongoing and concerted effort to understand herself regarding her accountability for the conditions in her life that led to this ethical violation. In addition she reports seeking additional training in ethics and appears committed to remain vigilant against any possible lapses in judgment.

Presently she continues to attend psychotherapy sessions consistently and is highly motivated to examine and affect further change in her life so she does not repeat what she has done. She is committed to ongoing personal and professional development so she may again return to her work as a professional counselor.

In the time I have worked with her I have never seen this level of commitment to face and modify one's behavior and to address uncomfortable personal issues. I believe she has demonstrated

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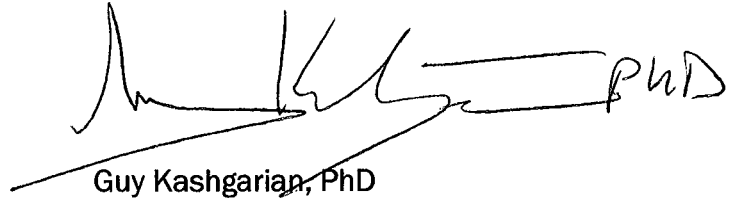
sufficient insight and change as to be considered emotionally and ethically fit to practice counseling.

If you have any questions or comments feel free to contact me directly at the Wilmington office telephone number listed above.

Sincerely,



Debora Kashgarian, PhD  
Licensed Psychologist  
Executive Director



Guy Kashgarian, PhD  
Licensed Psychologist  
Clinical Director