

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA
BOARD OF LICENSED
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
JENNIFER COLEMAN, LPC)
Respondent.)
No. 1496)

CONSENT ORDER

THIS CAUSE, coming on to be heard and being heard before the North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors (“the Board”), at its meeting on June 11, 2015, pursuant to a charge letter issued by the Ethics Review Committee of the Board on January 5, 2015, which is now 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 cause a licensed professional counselor and is subject to the Board’s jurisdiction pursuant to the North Carolina Licensed Professional Counselors Act, Chapter 90, Article 24 of the North Carolina General Statutes.
2. Respondent engaged in and continues to engage in an inappropriate relationship with a former client, “client X”. Respondent provided professional counseling services to client X from on or about April 23, 2012, through on or about August 2, 2013. Respondent was client X’s individual and group counselor during this time period. One month after the termination of counseling services, Respondent entered into a friendship with client X, which soon progressed into Respondent developing very strong intimate feelings for client X. Respondent admitted that she is in love with client X and that Respondent and client X are in a mutually supportive emotional partnership. Respondent disclosed that at this time she and client X are not in a physically intimate relationship, but that Respondent will not wait 5 years to begin a relationship with someone she loves and that Respondent believes that two years is a reasonable time to wait.
3. Respondent admits that her conduct constitutes a violation of Section A5b & A5c of the American Counseling Association Code of Ethics (2005), and Section A5c & A6e of the American Counseling Association Code of Ethics (2014), and a violation of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-340 (a)(9) of the Licensed Professional Counselors Act.
4. The Board and Respondent wish to avoid the time and the costs associated with full litigation of this matter and, in lieu of any proceedings, enter into this Consent Order.
5. Respondent expressly waives notice of hearing, a hearing, the making of findings of fact and conclusions of law, and all further proceedings before the Board to which the Respondent may be entitled by law. Respondent further agrees that presentation of this Consent Order to the Board for

approval shall not constitute improper ex parte communication between the Board and its counsel, or the Board and its staff, nor require the recusal of the members of the Board from consideration of this matter before the full Board, should a hearing be required in this case.

6. Respondent forever releases the State of North Carolina, the North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors, and all its members, officials, agents, representatives and employees, 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.

7. Respondent waives the right to seek judicial review or to otherwise challenge the validity of this Consent Order in any court. Respondent understands and agrees that this Consent Order shall be effective only after approval by the full Board and signature of its Chairperson.

8. This Consent Order contains the entire agreement between the undersigned, there being no agreement of any kind, verbal or otherwise, which varies, alters, or adds to this Consent Order.

Based upon the record and the foregoing stipulations,

NOW, THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

I. Respondent hereby voluntarily RELINQUISHES her license to practice counseling effective June 30, 2015, and shall not apply for a new license until after June 30, 2016. Respondent shall turn in her original license to practice counseling in North Carolina to the Board office no later than July 3, 2015. She shall mail her original license to: Katrina Brent, North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors, Post Office Box 77819, Greensboro, North Carolina 27417.

II. Respondent shall not engage in the practice of counseling during the relinquishment of her license. Respondent shall provide a signed affidavit (a written statement made under oath or affirmation taken before a person having authority to administer such oath or affirmation) to the Board no later than July 3, 2015, attesting that she has terminated and transferred all of her clients by June 30, 2015. She shall further attest that she is no longer engaged in the practice of counseling in any way.

III. In order to be re-licensed, Respondent shall apply for a new license and be approved under the statutes and Board rules that are in effect at the time of her application for re-licensure. In addition, during the relinquishment of Respondent's license, Respondent shall undergo a fitness for practice evaluation by a Board designated evaluator. Once the evaluation is complete, the Board, within its discretion, based upon the evaluation report, will determine whether to re-license Respondent and, if so, whether to place additional conditions on Respondent's license during the Probationary period set forth in Roman Numeral IV. All costs associated with this fitness for practice evaluation shall be borne by Respondent.

III. If the Board determines that Respondent is not fit to practice, Respondent shall not be re-licensed.

IV. After Respondent applies for re-licensure and following the completion of the fitness for practice evaluation, if the Board determines that Respondent is fit to practice, Respondent's license as an LPC shall be placed under the following CONDITIONS:

A. For a period of one year, Respondent shall be supervised by a Board approved supervisor, with whom she has no pre-existing relationship, for one hour of individual face to face supervision during every week in which she engages in counseling, with no less than two supervision sessions per month. During supervision, Respondent's supervisor shall carefully monitor Respondent's boundaries with clients. Respondent must file a supervision contract and the supervisor must be approved by the Board prior to the beginning of supervision. Respondent shall share this consent order, the charge letter and the fitness for practice evaluation report with her supervisor.

B. The Board approved supervisor shall file quarterly supervision reports with the Board at the end of each quarter on the Board quarterly supervision report form. At the conclusion of the one year of supervision, Respondent's Board approved supervisor shall submit a Final Supervision Report to the Board. Respondent must receive at least average ratings from her supervisor in all of the supervision reports in order to be released from the supervision. If her ratings are not at least average, the period of time for which she did not receive average ratings shall not count for the one year period of supervision, and she shall continue in supervision until she receives at least average ratings for one year. At the conclusion of the one year of supervision, so long as Respondent's ratings are average or above on all supervision reports, the Board Ethics Chair shall provide her with written approval of her release from supervision. Any costs and associated expenses of this supervision shall be borne by the Respondent.

C. The Board may require additional conditions, within its discretion, based upon the fitness for practice evaluation.

V. Upon successfully completion of the conditions set forth in Roman Numeral IV. A through C, Respondent shall be released from the conditions of this Consent Order.

VI. The failure of Respondent to abide by any provisions of this Consent Order, if proven true by a preponderance of the evidence following notice and an opportunity for hearing, shall result in the suspension, revocation, or other disciplinary action against Respondent's license, in the discretion of the Board.

VII. The Board shall maintain this Consent Order as a public record pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §§132-1 and 90-340(f) and shall provide copies to the American Counseling Association and the National Board of Certified Counselors, and to other agencies or individuals as required by law.

This the 11th day of June, 2015.

CONSENTED TO BY:

NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF
LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

BY: Katherine H. Glenn, Ph.D., LPCS 06/11/2015
Katherine H. Glenn, Ph.D., LPCS date
Board Chairperson

Jennifer C. Glenn 5-18-15
Jennifer Coleman, LPC date
Respondent

James A. Wilson 5-22-15
James A. Wilson date
Attorney at Law
Attorney for Respondent