

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA
BOARD OF LICENSED
CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH
COUNSELORS

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
PAMELA RAYMOND, LCMHC)
)
Respondent.)
)
Case No. 1784)

CONSENT ORDER

THIS CAUSE, coming on to be heard and being heard before the North Carolina Board of Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors (“the Board”), at its meeting on 23-24 July 2020, pursuant to a charge letter issued by the Board on 11 October 2019 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 clinical mental health counselor¹ and is subject to the Board’s jurisdiction pursuant to the North Carolina Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors Act, Chapter 90, Article 24, of the North Carolina General Statutes.
2. During the time period beginning on or about 6 March 2012 through 1 June 2017, Respondent provided counseling services as a licensed clinical mental health counselor to Client MN (the “Client”).
3. While providing counseling services to the Client, Respondent crossed professional counseling boundaries and failed to maintain confidentiality of her Client by engaging in the following conduct: allowing the Client to taste wine while in therapy sessions; inviting Respondent’s husband to have meals with the Client which was a part of the client’s therapy; allowing the Client to visit Respondent’s home, including the times when Respondent’s husband was present; permitting the Client to come to Respondent’s house and walk with Respondent’s dog while Respondent was at work or on vacation; allowing the Client to do chores at Respondent’s home, such as cleaning, organizing, and yardwork; frequently taking the Client on Respondent’s leisure outings and vacations with Respondent’s husband present

¹ On 1 January 2020, the name “licensed professional counselor” was changed to “licensed clinical mental health counselor.” See Act of Nov. 6, 2019, Ch. 240, sec. 2(a), 2019 N.C. Sess. Laws 240.

and paying the Client's travel expenses; and exchanging gifts with the Client. Additionally, Respondent arranged for the Client to trade in her vehicle for a truck to be shared with Respondent's husband.

4. Furthermore, Respondent crossed professional counseling boundaries by engaging in ongoing personal conversations with the Client via text messages outside of normal therapy administrative purposes.
5. Respondent admits that she displayed poor judgment in employing the Client to organize and locate the files of Respondent's former clients by disclosing their names. Respondent contends that the Client had received training in HIPPA compliance in her former employment.
6. Following the termination of counseling services, Respondent continued to engage the Client in a non-professional relationship by allowing the Client to come to Respondent's home and pet sit for Respondent while she was on vacation, and also by leaving a personal voicemail for the Client regarding the health status of Respondent's animal.
7. Respondent contends that she believed that the activities in which she engaged the Client were enjoyable and therapeutic to the Client, included *in vivo* interventions/exposures to address real life issues, and were intended to help and support the Client. Respondent further contends that she believed her interventions were necessary considering the Client's living circumstances and her past medical treatment. Respondent provided records documenting her peer consultations with other professionals regarding some of her interventions. Respondent further contends that she believed that terminating the relationship after the Client had transferred to another therapist would have been harmful to the Client.
8. In session notes provided to the Board, Respondent documented some of the above-referenced boundary extensions, agreements, or interventions. That documentation, however, was sporadic and insufficient to meet the requirement that Respondent create and maintain records regarding boundary extensions, agreement or interventions.
9. Respondent represents to the Board that she closed her practice on or about 31 December 2019 and, since that time, has not participated in any activities that meet the definition of the practice of counseling under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-330(a)(3) or that fall under the prohibitions set forth in N.C. Gen. Stat. §90-331.
10. Respondent admits that her conduct described in Paragraphs 2 through 8 above constitutes violations of Sections A.1.b., A.6.b., A.6.c., and A.6.e. of the American Counseling Association Code of Ethics (2014) and violation of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-340 (a)(9) of the North Carolina Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors Act.
11. The Board contends, and Respondent denies, that Respondent's conduct described in

Paragraphs 2 through 8 above constitutes violations of Sections A.1.a., A.4.a., B.1.c., C.2.g., C.6.d., and C.7.c of the American Counseling Association Code of Ethics (2014) and violations of N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 90-340 (a)(7), (a)(10), and (a)(13) of the North Carolina Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors Act.

12. 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.
13. 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.
14. Respondent forever releases the State of North Carolina, the North Carolina Board of Licensed Clinical Mental Health 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.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. This Consent Order shall constitute disciplinary action against the license of Respondent, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §90-340(a).

Based upon the record and the foregoing stipulations,

NOW, THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

- I. Respondent agrees to voluntarily RELINQUISH her license on or before 7 August 2020 and shall not seek to reinstate her license at any time in the future.
- II. Should Respondent apply for re-licensure in the future, the Board shall have access to its entire investigative file in this matter in review of her application.

- III. No later than 1 August 2020, Respondent shall cease to engage in any activities that meet the definition of the practice of counseling under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-330(a)(3), or that fall under the prohibitions set forth in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-331.
- IV. No later than 7 August 2020, Respondent shall turn in her license to practice counseling in North Carolina to the Board. In the event Respondent is unable to find her license to practice counseling in North Carolina, she shall submit an Affidavit to the Board stating that despite her diligent search, she was unable to locate her original license and that in the event she finds it in the future, she will promptly turn it to the Board. Respondent shall mail her license or an Affidavit to: North Carolina Board of Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors, Post Office Box 77819, Greensboro, North Carolina 27417.
- V. The failure of Respondent to abide by any provisions of this Consent Order shall result in further action by the Board, including seeking an injunction in Superior Court, in the discretion of the Board.
- VI. 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.

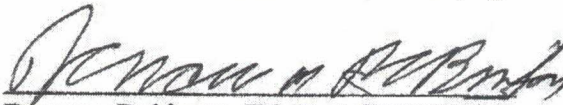
[The rest of this page is intentionally left blank].

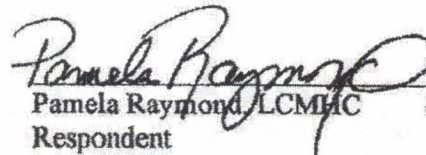
This the 24 day of July, 2020.


CONSENTED TO BY:

NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF
LICENSED CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS

BY:


Denauvo Robinson, Ed. D., LCMHCS date
Board Chairperson

 7-21-20
Pamela Raymond, LCMHC date
Respondent

 7-24-20
Sean Devereux date
Devereux & Banzhoff, PLLC
Attorney for Respondent