



NORTH CAROLINA BOARD
OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL
COUNSELORS

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October 29, 2019

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Catherine Gneiting, LPCS
221 New Bride Street
Jacksonville, NC 28540

RE: *North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors, Case No. 1797*

Dear Dr. Gneiting:

I am the Investigator for the North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors (the Board). On September 20, 2019, the Ethics Review Committee of the Board (the Committee) reviewed the information pertinent to the above referenced matter. The Committee has reached its conclusion and has instructed me to inform you of its findings.

The Committee found probable cause to believe that you had violated provisions of the North Carolina Licensed Professional Counselors Act and the American Counseling Association Code of Ethics (2014).

Specifically, the Committee alleges the following:

On or around May 10, 2019, during a telephone call with RP, the mother of a minor child, you informed RP that you had agreed to provide mediation/supervision during the child's supervised skype visits with his father, pursuant to the parent-child reconciliation Court Order. On or around May 30, 2019, RP and her husband met with you for an initial in-person consultation to discuss the possibility of the mother giving consent for your services.

During that meeting, you demonstrated a lack of competence with cases/clients of high conflict divorce and custody issues, and appeared to have practiced outside the scope of your clinical training when you:

- a. Failed to request and review all necessary documents (i.e. court order, custody order, minor client clinical records, etc.) prior to agreeing to provide parent-child reconciliation counseling services.
- b. Failed to provide adequate information about your role and the counseling process in the consultation meeting with RP.
- c. Failed to appropriately create and maintain counseling records for any contacts with the father's attorney and/or the consultation meeting with RP.

In addition, you also appeared to demonstrate bias in your consultation meeting with RP when you told her that you had been hired by the father's attorney and that you represented the father in this matter. In so doing, you also failed to demonstrate your responsibility to parents and legal guardians in a manner that respects their inherent rights and responsibilities and/or court orders.

If true, the above-referenced conduct constitutes violations of Sections A.1.a., A.2.a., A.2.b., A.2.d., A.3., A.4.a., A.4.b., A.8., B.5.b., B.6.a., and C.2.a. of the American Counseling Association Code of Ethics (2014) and violations of N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 90-340 (a)(7), (a)(9), (a)(10) and (a)(12) of the North Carolina Licensed Professional Counselors Act.

The aforementioned allegations relate to your conduct as a Licensed Professional Counselor, and if proven, could provide cause for sanctions to be taken against your license. The information which the Board has received does not in itself provide sufficient evidence that these alleged acts have occurred. Consequently, the Board does not consider that any determination regarding possible sanctions against your license can be made without first providing you the opportunity to exercise your due process rights.

If you would prefer to resolve this matter through a Consent Order, please contact the Board's counsel, Alesia M. Balshakova, at (919) 716-6801. You may decline to do so and request a hearing before the Board regarding these allegations. You are entitled to request a hearing on these allegations by responding in writing within thirty (30) days of the receipt of this letter and requesting a formal hearing. If the Board does not receive a written response requesting a hearing within thirty (30) days of the receipt of this letter, the Board will hold a hearing, whether you are present or not. In either case, you will receive Notice of Hearing no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the hearing notifying you of the specific time, date, and location of the hearing. You are entitled, with or without requesting a formal hearing, to present any additional statements or materials you may wish.

The above proceeding is a quasi-judicial evidentiary hearing conducted by the Board pursuant to Chapter 150B of the General Statutes of North Carolina as required by G.S. § 90-340(e). You are entitled to present witnesses and introduce evidence on your own behalf and to cross-examine witnesses and examine evidence introduced on behalf of the Board. At the hearing, the Board will hear evidence regarding the charges set forth in this letter and will determine what, if any, disciplinary action should be taken against your license to practice counseling. You are entitled to be represented by an attorney of your choosing and at your expense, or you may represent yourself. The Board will be represented by counsel at such a hearing. Following the hearing, the Board will issue a final decision, pursuant to G.S. § 150B-42.

Should you have any questions about the procedure in such matters, or if you wish to discuss informal resolution of this matter, you may direct them to the Board's counsel, Alesia M. Balshakova at (919) 716-6801 or abalshakova@ncdoj.gov.

Sincerely,



Nick DeJesus | LPC

Ethics Consultant & Board Investigator

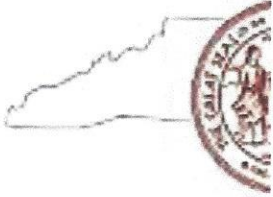
NC Board of Licensed Professional Counselors

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Cc: Mr. Stefon Plummer, Board Administrator