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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE PSYCHOLOGY EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY

PROCEEDINGS AGAINST:

CAROLYN V. EDWARDS, PH.D.,

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

RESPONDENT

LS0103132PSY

The parties to this action for the purposes of § 227.53, Stats., are:

Carolyn V. Edwards, Ph.D.

508 N. Rose Ave

Park Ridge, IL 60068

Wisconsin Psychology Examining Board

P.O. Box 8935

Madison, WI 53708-8935

Department of Regulation and Licensing

Division of Enforcement

P.O. Box 8935

Madison, WI 53708-8935

The parties in this matter agree to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final decision of this matter, subject to the approval of the Psychology Examining Board. The Board has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

Accordingly, the Board in this matter adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Carolyn V. Edwards, Ph.D., Respondent, date of birth September 30, 1948 is licensed by the Wisconsin Psychology Examining Board as a psychologist in the state of Wisconsin pursuant to license number 1603, which was first granted October 23, 1990.
2. On December 16, 1998, Respondent notified the Board she had changed her name, from Carole M. Zielinski, the name by which she had been licensed, to Carolyn V. Edwards.
3. Respondent's last address reported to the Department of Regulation and Licensing is 508 N. Rose Ave, Park Ridge, IL 60068.

Illinois Discipline

4. Prior to May 1997, Respondent received a Certificate of Registration as a Clinical Psychologist in the State of Illinois, license number 071-004445, which she held under the name Carole M. Zielinski.
5. On May 30, 1997, the Department of Professional Regulation of the State of Illinois filed a three count complaint against Respondent which alleged:

- a. That from March 1992 through July 1994, Respondent provided therapeutic psychological services to patient, MaryLu R., who suffered from post traumatic stress disorder and depression.
- b. That Respondent crossed therapeutic boundaries in that professional relationship by:
 - i. Initiating a personal relationship with the patient.
 - ii. Initiating physical contact with the patient.
 - iii. Expressing affection to the patient through gifts and cards.
- c. That the conduct was grounds for revocation or suspension of her certificate of registration, as unethical and unprofessional conduct in the rendering of therapeutic psychological services. (Count I)
- d. That the conduct was grounds for revocation or suspension of her certificate of registration, as gross negligence in the rendering of therapeutic psychological services. (Count II)
- e. That because of the conduct set out in sub (b), above, the treatment Respondent provided to MaryLu R. became "valueless and unrendered" and Respondent received compensation for services not actually rendered, which conduct was grounds for revocation or suspension of her certificate of registration, as unethical and unprofessional conduct in the rendering of therapeutic psychological services. (Count III)

6. In December 1997 and January 1998, the Respondent and the Department of Professional Regulation of the State of Illinois agreed to a Stipulation and Recommendation for Settlement which they submitted to the Illinois Psychology Licensing and Disciplinary Committee (Committee) for its approval and recommendation to the Director of the Department of Professional Regulation of the State of Illinois. That document:

- a. Contains an acknowledgment by Respondent that a violation of the Clinical Psychology Licensing and Disciplinary Act may be found by the Committee.
- b. Provides that Respondent's license be indefinitely suspended for a minimum of three years and that during the period of suspension that Respondent be prohibited from engaging in the practice of Clinical Psychology in the State of Illinois.
- c. Provides that Respondent not be eligible to petition for restoration of her license for a minimum of three years, at which time she "must show by a preponderance of the evidence that she is fully conversant with the ethical principles of clinical psychology, that she is fit to return to practice, and that she warrants the public trust."

7. On January 23, 1998, the Committee approved the Stipulation and Recommendation for Settlement, concluded that Respondent had violated the Illinois Clinical Psychologist Licensing Act and recommended that the Director approve the Recommendation.

8. On February 20, 1998, the Director adopted the Stipulation and Recommendation for Settlement and ordered that Respondent's Illinois license be indefinitely suspended in accordance with the Stipulation and Recommendation for Settlement.

9. Respondent's conduct, during the professional relationship with client, MaryLu R., was gross negligence in the practice of psychology.

10. Respondent's conduct, during the professional relationship with client, MaryLu R., was the failure to avoid a dual relationship or a relationship that might impair Respondent's objectivity or create a conflict of interest.

Failure to Report Illinois Discipline

11. Licensees of the Board are subject to discipline for "[f]ailure to notify the board of having a license, certificate, permit or registration granted by this or any other state for the practice of psychology or school psychology limited, restricted, suspended or revoked, or having been subject to other disciplinary action by the licensing or certifying authority thereof."

12. Although, in December 1998, Respondent advised the Wisconsin Examining Board of her name change, Respondent has never notified the Board that her Certificate of Registration as a Clinical Psychologist in the State of Illinois, license number 071-004445, which she held under the name Carole M. Zieliski, had been indefinitely suspended on January 23, 1998.

13. On August 2, 2000, the Board first became aware that Respondent might have been disciplined in Illinois, when it received a letter from the American Psychology Association (APA) which said that the APA had expelled Respondent from its membership "based on license suspension (Illinois)."

14. The Division of Enforcement (Division) contacted the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation and on September 26, 2000, received copies of the Illinois disciplinary documents. The Division has not obtained or reviewed the Illinois investigative materials.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Psychology Examining Board has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to § 455.09, Stats.
2. The Wisconsin Psychology Examining Board has authority to enter into this stipulated resolution of this matter pursuant to § 227.44(5), Stats.
3. Respondent's conduct, as set out above, constituted gross negligence in the practice of psychology, which was in violation of Wis. Adm. Code § PSY 5.01(2) and subjects Respondent to discipline pursuant to §455.09(g) and (h), Stats.
4. Respondent's conduct, as set out above, constituted a failure to avoid dual relationships or relationships that may impair a psychologist's objectivity or create a conflict of interest, which was in violation of Wis. Adm. Code § PSY 5.01(17) and subjects Respondent to discipline pursuant to §455.09(g), Stats.
5. Respondent failed to notify the Board of having had a license and registration granted by another state for the practice of psychology suspended, which constitutes a violation of Wis. Adm. Code § PSY 5.01(29) and subjects Respondent to discipline pursuant to §455.09(g), Stats.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. The surrender by Carolyn V. Edwards, Ph.D., Respondent, of her license to practice psychology in the state of Wisconsin is hereby accepted, effective immediately.
2. If Respondent ever petitions the Board for a license to practice psychology:
 - a. Respondent shall notify the Division of Enforcement (Division) of the request and the Division shall have the opportunity to apprise the Board of all allegations contained in these investigations pending at the time the attached stipulation was executed.
 - b. Respondent shall sign, and provide to the Division, any consents to release of information which may be necessary to obtain the Illinois investigative materials and any evidence Respondent has provided to Illinois to show "that she is fully conversant with the ethical principles of clinical psychology, that she is fit to return to practice, and that she warrants the public trust."
 - c. Following the presentation of information by the Division, the Board may in its sole discretion elect to: obtain additional information from Respondent or other sources; grant a license Respondent, with or without limitations; or, to deny Respondent's petition.
 - d. If Respondent believes that the Board's denial of license is inappropriate or that any limitation imposed by the Board is inappropriate, Respondent may seek a class 1 hearing pursuant to § 227.01(3)(a), Stats., in which the burden shall be on Respondent to show that the Board's decision is arbitrary or capricious. The denial of license or limitations on Respondent's license shall remain in effect until there is a final decision in Respondent's favor on the issue.

The rights of a party aggrieved by this Decision to petition the Board for rehearing and to petition for judicial review are set forth on the attached "Notice of Appeal Information".

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin this 13th day of March, 2001.

Barbara A. Van Horne, Ph.D.

Chairperson

Psychology Examining Board