

# WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



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1. Kristine Singleton Nutter, Respondent, date of birth June 14, 1949, has never been licensed to

practice as a psychologist in the state of Wisconsin, pursuant to Chapter 455 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

2. Respondent's address is 1406 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Merrill, WI 54452.

3. Beginning October 1, 1996, § 455.02(1m), Stats., has prohibited any person from engaging in the practice of psychology (which includes psychotherapy), unless the person has a license issued by the Psychology Examining Board or the person fits within one of the exceptions set out in that section of the statutes. [§ 455.02(1m) and (2m), Stats.]

4. § 455.01(5), Stats., defines "Practice of psychology" to mean: "rendering to any person for a fee a psychological service involving the application of principles, methods and procedures of understanding, predicting and influencing behavior, such as the principles pertaining to learning, perception, motivation, thinking, emotions and interpersonal relationships; the methods and procedures of interviewing, counseling, psychotherapy, psychoanalysis and biofeedback; and the methods and procedures of constructing, administering and interpreting tests of mental abilities, aptitudes, interests, attitudes, personality characteristics, emotion and motivation. The application of these principles and methods includes, but is not restricted to, all of the following:

(a) Psychological diagnosis, prevention and treatment of problems in behavioral, vocational, educational, emotional, sexual, neuropsychological and mental disorders.

(b) Treatment for alcohol and other substance abuse, disorders of habit and conduct, and the psychological and behavioral aspects of physical illness, accident or other disabilities.

(c) Any other activity authorized by statute or by rules promulgated by the examining board."

5. One statutory exception [§ 455.02(2m)(a), Stats.] allowed certified independent clinical social workers to practice psychotherapy.

6. From September 1, 1993 through June 30, 1997, Respondent was certified as an independent clinical social worker by the Social Worker Section of the then named Wisconsin Examining Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors.

7. Respondent's certificate expired effective July 1, 1997. On October 12, 1997, Respondent's application for renewal of her certificate was denied based on tax delinquency. To this date, Respondent owes delinquent taxes and is ineligible to renew her certificate.

8. There was no other applicable statutory exception which allowed Respondent to engage in the practice of psychology without a license after the expiration of her certification as an independent clinical social worker.

9. Subsequent to October 12, 1997, Respondent has continued to practice psychotherapy for a fee in Wisconsin at offices in Merrill, Marion and Antigo. Respondent worked with adults with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and abused children who have attachment disorders and PTSD.

10. After October 12, 1997 and shortly before December 1999, Respondent received training for treatment of children with attachment disorders and for a fee, provided several families with post-intensive follow-up treatment in Wisconsin.

11. The treatment Respondent provided to those families constituted the practice of psychology without a license.

## COUNT II

12. From December 23, 1999 to at least mid-2001, for a fee, Respondent provided psychotherapy services to Child A, who Respondent determined came from an abusive household and who Respondent diagnosed as having PTSD and reactive attachment disorder (RAD) with features of attachment disorder.

13. From November 6, 2000 to at least mid-2001, for a fee, Respondent provided psychotherapy services to Child B (Child A's older sibling). Respondent saw Child B primarily as a collateral client with Child A for issues of attachment, sibling relationships and treatment for PTSD.

14. On June 22, 2001, Marathon County Department of Social Services (MCDSS) received a referral of suspected sexual abuse of Child A and Child B from Respondent. In her follow-up letter to MCDSS, Respondent stated "I am a therapist who specializes in working with children with attachment disorders and PTSD." In the letter, Respondent identified herself as Kristine Singleton, MSW, at Kreative Soulutions Counseling, 305 Liberty, Merrill, WI 54452 and 725 S. Main, Marion, WI 54950.

15. The treatment Respondent provided to Child A and Child B constituted the practice of psychology without a license.

## COUNT III

16. From April 2002 to August 2002, for a fee, Respondent provided psychotherapy services to three children, TD (DOB 5/7/92), DK (DOB 7/23/93) and SK (DOB 8/23/94), who were residing in a State licensed pre-adoptive foster home in Hancock, Wisconsin. Treatment included intensive therapy for issues of attachment and post-traumatic stress disorder, as well as aftercare counseling.

17. Respondent provided psychotherapy services to the children on the following dates in 2002:

April: 5, 12, 17, 26

May: 3, 14, 23

June: 7, 12, 25

July: 2, 19, 26

August: 1, 7

18. Respondent also provided supportive psychotherapy, for a fee, to the foster parents of the three children.

19. The treatment Respondent provided to TD, DK, SK and their foster parents constituted the practice of psychology without a license.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing has jurisdiction over this matter, pursuant to § 440.21(1) and (2), Stats.

2. The Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing is authorized to enter into this stipulated resolution of this matter pursuant to § 227.44(5), Stats.

3. Respondent, Kristine Singleton Nutter, has engaged in the unlicensed practice of psychology in Wisconsin, in violation of § 455.02(1m), Stats.

#### ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Respondent, Kristine Singleton Nutter, is prohibited from practicing psychology without a license in the state of Wisconsin.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent, Kristine Singleton Nutter, be, and hereby is, notified that any person who violates a special order such as this, issued under § 440.21, Stats., may be required to forfeit not more than \$10,000.00 for each offense and that each day of continued violation constitutes a separate offense.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin this 8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2003.

Donsia Strong Hill

Secretary

Department of Regulation and Licensing