

**BEFORE THE
BOARD OF CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS
OF THE STATE OF OREGON**

In the Matter of

STEPHEN R. BECK, LCSW

Respondent.

**STIPULATED FINAL ORDER OF
PROBATION AND ASSESSING CIVIL
PENALTIES**

Case No. 2007-14

1.

The Board of Clinical Social Workers (Board) is the agency responsible for licensing, regulating, and disciplining Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW) and Clinical Social Work Associates (CSWA) in the State of Oregon.

2.

At all times material herein, Stephen R. Beck, LCSW, (Respondent) was an LCSW and subject to the jurisdiction of the Board. Respondent's address of record is 12803 NW McNamee Road, Portland, Oregon 97231-2124.

3.

Beginning in October, 1995 and ending in June, 2003, Respondent conducted about 248 clinical sessions with clients who were members of the same family (mother, father, and three sons) and with two adolescent acquaintances of the family. The majority of these sessions were with the mother and father (143 individual sessions with the mother, 19 individual and 84 group sessions with the father, and 31 couples sessions with the mother & father). In connection with these clients, Respondent committed the following violations:

(a) Engaged in conduct that compromised the fulfillment of professional responsibilities by not appropriately separating his private life from his professional work, in violation of OAR 877-030-0040(1). Examples of Respondent's conduct include: attending the mother's birthday party; bartering with the father for services in Respondent's home; sharing personal poetry with the mother; and disclosing personal information about Respondent, his family members, and an acquaintance.

1 (b) Entered into dual relationships with these clients that: (i) violated Respondent's
2 position of power, trust, and dependence with the client(s), in violation of OAR 877-030-
3 0070(1)(a); (ii) conflicted with the ability of the client(s) to benefit from social work practice, in
4 violation of OAR 877-030-0070(1)(b); (iii) impaired Respondent's professional judgment or
5 increased the risk of exploitation of the client(s), in violation of OAR 877-030-0070(1)(c); and
6 (iv) increased the risk of exploitation for the client(s) for Respondent's advantage, in violation of
7 OAR 877-030-0070(1)(d). At various times over the nearly eight year period of providing
8 clinical treatment to these clients, Respondent failed to maintain proper boundaries including, but
9 not limited to, as follows: attending the mother's birthday party; bartering with the father for
10 services in Respondent's home; sharing personal poetry with the mother; and disclosing personal
11 information about Respondent, his family members, and an acquaintance.

12 (c) Provided inappropriate or unnecessary treatment or therapy to clients, in violation
13 of OAR 877-030-0070(3). Respondent entered into a clinical relationship that lasted about eight
14 years without having a clear, explicit treatment plan or biopsychosocial assessment (including
15 relevant diagnostic information) that is consistent with this unusually long period of treatment
16 and with prevailing standards of care in clinical social work. In addition, Respondent continued
17 treatment of these clients for this extended period of time despite significant boundary issues and
18 the clear and persistent concerns raised by the clients about the relationship.

19 (d) Failed to provide the clients with explicit information regarding the extent and
20 nature of the services being provided, or about the risks, rights, opportunities, and obligations
21 associated with the provision of these professional services, in violation of OAR 877-030-
22 0070(4). Respondent did not provide the clients with explicit information regarding the extent
23 and nature of the services he provided, or about the risks, rights, opportunities, and obligations
24 associated with those professional services; in particular, with regard to the nontraditional
25 interventions and therapeutic techniques used by Respondent including psychodrama, the
26 provision of clinical services to multiple members of the same family and their acquaintances

1 and the potential for conflicts of interest arising therefrom, and the diverse manner of providing
2 these clinical services (i.e. individual, couple's, family, and group).

3 (e) Failed to seek consultation or make referral when it might have improved the
4 provision of professional services and was in the best interests of the clients, in violation of OAR
5 877-030-0070(5). Respondent did not timely seek supervision or peer consultation in an effort to
6 respond appropriately and in a manner consistent with the clients' best interest despite the
7 persistent pattern of very significant boundary issues, confusion, and challenges that existed over
8 a period of years.

9 (f) Failed to terminate services when the services were no longer serving the clients'
10 needs or in the clients' best interests, in violation of OAR 877-030-0070(7). Respondent decided
11 to continue treatment with these clients for a period of nearly eight years despite the clear and
12 persistent anguish, doubts, and concerns about the relationship.

13 4.

14 Respondent acknowledges having engaged in the above conduct and agrees to the
15 sanctions imposed below, but neither admits nor denies having committed the above violations.

16 5.

17 Respondent and the Board desire to resolve this matter by entry of this Stipulated Final
18 Order of Probation and Assessing Civil Penalties (Stipulated Order), pursuant to ORS
19 183.417(3).

20 6.

21 Respondent is placed on **PROBATION** for a period of three years from the date of
22 issuance of this Stipulated Order with the following terms and conditions of probation:

23 a. Respondent must promptly enter into supervision with a Licensed Clinical Social
24 Worker (LCSW) (hereafter referred to as the "Supervisor") from a list of Board approved
25 LCSW supervisors. The Board in its sole discretion determines who is on the list of Board
26 approved LCSW supervisors. Respondent must notify the Board in writing within twenty

1 (20) days of being provided with a list of Board approved supervisors with the name and
2 contact information for the Supervisor and provide the Board with any necessary releases for
3 the Board to communicate directly with the Supervisor.

4 b. Respondent must meet with the Supervisor at least twice each month for at least
5 one (1) hour each meeting during the period of Probation. Those supervision meetings shall
6 be used by Licensee to discuss current cases and review issues related to the violations
7 committed by Respondent herein, as described in paragraph (3) above, and to comply with
8 the other terms of probation herein.

9 c. Respondent must work with the Supervisor to develop appropriate constructs for
10 Respondent's private practice that include information and documentation concerning
11 therapeutic goals, confidentiality, boundaries, and other aspects of clinical practice to share
12 with clients. Respondent shall instruct and have the Supervisor report to the Board in writing
13 by the end of the first quarter of supervision that this overview and restructuring of
14 Respondent's practice has been completed and describe in detail what has been done and
15 implemented by Respondent.

16 d. Respondent must work with the Supervisor during the period of probation to gain
17 additional knowledge of and skills for relating to borderline personality disorder clients.

18 e. Respondent must work with the Supervisor on the form and legibility of
19 Respondent's case notes.

20 f. Respondent authorizes the Board to communicate directly with the Supervisor and
21 shall provide any necessary releases for the Board to communicate directly with the
22 Supervisor.

23 g. Respondent shall instruct and have the Supervisor provide quarterly reports to the
24 Board detailing compliance with each and every term of probation herein, issues dealt with in
25 supervision, and any other information the Supervisor believes the Board needs to have
26 related to Respondent's ability to safely practice. Respondent shall ensure that these reports

1 are received by the Board within fourteen (14) days of the end of each quarter. In addition,
2 Respondent shall instruct and have the Supervisor provide a final report to the Board within
3 fourteen (14) days of the end of the Probation period that includes an overall assessment of
4 the supervision provided to Respondent, Respondent's compliance with the terms of
5 Probation in this Stipulated Order, and the Supervisor's assessment of Respondent's ability
6 to safely practice without continued supervision.

7 h. Respondent shall complete during the period of Probation twelve (12) hours of
8 Continuing Education Units that focus on Borderline Personality Disorder. These specific
9 Continuing Education hours are in addition to the normal Continuing Education requirements
10 for Respondent to maintain his clinical social worker license. Respondent shall provide a
11 report on the completion of this Continuing Education requirement to the Board within
12 fourteen (14) days of the end of the Probation period.

13 i. The supervision required by this Stipulated Order and all costs, fees, and expenses
14 required for Respondent to comply with this Stipulated Order shall be paid by Respondent.

15 7.

16 In addition to placing Respondent on probation, the Board imposes a civil penalty in the
17 sum of four hundred and fifty dollars and no cents (\$450) for each of the nine violations
18 committed by Respondent described above, pursuant to ORS 675.540(2)(c), 675.595(10), and
19 183.745. The total civil penalties assessed in this Stipulated Order are four thousand fifty dollars
20 and no cents (\$4,050).

21 a. Respondent shall pay the civil penalties assessed in this Stipulated Order in
22 installments of two hundred dollars and no cents (\$200) per month beginning the month after this
23 Stipulated Order is issued. Each monthly payment shall be due on the first of each month and
24 must be received by the Board by the tenth of each month for Respondent not to be in violation
25 of the terms of this Stipulated Order. The payments shall be sent to: State Board of Clinical
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1 Social Workers, 3218 Pringle Road, SE, Suite 240, Salem OR 97302-6310; unless Respondent is
2 otherwise notified in writing by the Board.

3 b. If Respondent does not fully and completely comply with each and every term of
4 this Stipulated Order, including but not limited to the each term and condition of probation and
5 the timely payment of the civil penalty installments, or engages in any activity that violates ORS
6 675.510 to 675.600 or OAR Chapter 877, then the total amount in civil penalties assessed in this
7 Stipulated Order minus the amounts paid by Respondent *plus* interest owed at the legal rate of
8 interest, pursuant to ORS 82.010, will become immediately due, payable, and collectable.

9 8.

10 Respondent understands, acknowledges, and agrees to the following:

11 8.1. This Stipulated Order will be submitted to the Board for approval and is subject to
12 and conditioned upon approval by the full Board. This Stipulated Order, once issued by the
13 Board, is a final order.

14 8.2. This Stipulated Order is a public document and a matter of public discipline. This
15 document must be disclosed, published, and reported in accordance with ORS 676.175(5)(a)(D),
16 OAR 877-040-0050(2), and Oregon Public Records Law;

17 8.3. This Stipulated Order in no way limits or prevents further remedies, sanctions, or
18 actions which may be available to the Board under Oregon law for conduct or actions of
19 Respondent not covered by this Stipulated Order, or against a party not covered by the Stipulated
20 Order, or for Respondent's failure to comply with the terms of this Stipulated Order;

21 8.4. Respondent has been fully advised of Respondent's rights to notice and a
22 contested case hearing under the Oregon Administrative Procedures Act (ORS Chapter 183) and
23 Civil Penalty Procedures of ORS 183.745, and fully and finally waives any and all such rights
24 and any rights to appeal or otherwise challenge this Stipulated Order; and

25 8.5. Respondent has fully read this Stipulated Order and understands it completely.
26 Respondent voluntarily, without any force or duress, consents to issuance and entry of this

1 Stipulated Order. Respondent states that no promises or representation has been made to induce
2 Licensee to sign this Stipulated Order. Respondent has consulted with an attorney regarding this
3 Stipulated Order and has been fully advised in regards thereto or waives any and all rights to
4 consult with an attorney prior to issuance and entry of this Stipulated Order.

5 **IT IS SO STIPULATED AND AGREED TO** this 31st day of March, 2008.

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8 Signature on File in the Board Office
9 Stephen R. Beck, LCSW, Respondent

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10 **IT IS SO ORDERED** this 8th day of April, 2008.

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BOARD OF CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS
State of Oregon

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14 By: Signature on File in the Board Office
15 Mark F. Oldham, Chair

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