

BEFORE THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY LICENSING BOARD  
OF THE STATE OF OREGON

In the Matter of )  
 )  
DONNA L. COWLING, OT/L, ) CONSENT ORDER  
 ) Case No. OT-01-01  
Licensee. )

WHEREAS, Donna L. Cowling ("licensee") holds a license as an occupational therapist having been issued license number 1001650 by the Occupational Therapy Licensing Board of the State of Oregon ("Board"); and

WHEREAS, the Board has received a complaint regarding the licensee and has conducted an investigation, which included an interview with the licensee; and

WHEREAS, based on the information developed in the investigation the Board is prepared to issue a Notice of Proposed License Revocation in which it would allege that the licensee engaged in incompetent action in the performance of professional duties. Specifically, the Board would allege that while employed as an occupational therapist by a hospital providing mental health services the licensee placed personal telephone calls from her home to mental health patients at the hospital; that in one such telephone conversation she gave the patient her home telephone number; that she sold writing pens to patients; that she received T-shirts from patients; that on one occasion she allowed patients, including one with a history of self-inflicted injury, to have access to a knife during a cooking class;

and that she discussed matters concerning her private life with patients. The Board would allege that by engaging in the foregoing conduct the licensee failed to set or recognize patient-therapist boundaries, that she compromised the therapy of the patients and that she jeopardized her own safety, the safety of the patients and the safety of her co-workers; and

WHEREAS, the licensee acknowledges that she engaged in the conduct as described above, except she believes that she properly supervised the patient whom she allowed to use a knife during cooking class to cut bread; and

WHEREAS, by entering into this Consent Order the licensee waives her right to a hearing and her right to judicial review; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to ORS 676.175(5) this Consent Order is not admissible as evidence and may not preclude an issue or claim in any civil proceeding except in a proceeding between the Board and the licensee; and

WHEREAS, the licensee agrees to the entry of the within Consent Order:

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. The license of Donna L. Cowling to practice occupational therapy is suspended for an indefinite period of time, effective immediately.
2. The licensee shall not apply to reinstate her license any earlier than three years from the effective date of this Consent Order.

3. In the event that the licensee applies to reinstate her license, she shall have the burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence that she is in all respects fit and competent to practice occupational therapy.

4. Immediately prior to applying for reinstatement the licensee shall undergo a comprehensive evaluation at her expense to be performed by a Board pre-approved psychologist. Board approval shall be in writing. Before the evaluation is begun the Board shall provide to the evaluator information from the Board's files regarding the licensee and a written list of questions the Board needs answered by the evaluator regarding the licensee. The Board shall provide to the licensee copies of all documents provided to the evaluator at the time they are provided to the evaluator. The evaluator shall provide a written report directly to the Board and shall provide a copy to the licensee.

5. Prior to applying for reinstatement the licensee shall complete a chemical dependency evaluation at her own expense to be performed by a Board pre-approved chemical dependency evaluator. Board approval shall be in writing. Before the evaluation is begun the Board shall provide to the evaluator information from the Board's files regarding the licensee and a written list of questions the Board needs answered by the evaluator regarding the licensee. The Board shall provide to the licensee copies of all documents provided to the evaluator at the

time they are provided to the evaluator. The evaluator shall provide a written report directly to the Board and shall provide a copy to the licensee.

6. The licensee shall follow any treatment recommendations made by the chemical dependency evaluator.

7. Prior to seeking reinstatement the licensee shall complete fifteen hours of Board approved continuing education hours for each calendar year or portion thereof following the effective date of this Consent Order.

8. In the event that the Board grants the licensee's application for reinstatement, the Board may place reasonable limitations, conditions and restrictions on her or upon her practice of occupational therapy.

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9. This Consent Order shall become immediately effective upon signature by the Board.

DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of November, 2001.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY  
LICENSING BOARD

\_\_\_\_\_  
Peggy Smith  
Executive Officer

CONSENT

I hereby certify that I have read the within Consent Order and that I voluntarily agree that the Board issue the Consent Order.

11.1.01  
Date

Signature on File \_\_\_\_\_