

1 Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Opinion and Order.

2 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

3 1. The Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists (Board) is the
4 state agency responsible for licensing; regulating and disciplining licensed professional
5 counselors and licensed marriage and family therapists.

6 2. The Board has adopted a Code of Ethics that applies to all licensees.

7 3. Respondent engaged in an inappropriate dual relationship when she attempted to
8 develop a personal relationship with a current client (Client).

9 4. Respondent gave Client gifts. One suggestive gift included a tin of mints that had
10 an illustration of a woman on the front with a long tongue sticking out with the caption
11 “Have yourself a sweet, hot little suck.” Ultimately Respondent admitted to Client that
12 she loved Client, but thought they could continue the counseling relationship.

13 5. Respondent admits that within a month after the counseling relationship ended,
14 she began a “romantic and/or sexual relationship” with Client.

15 6. Respondent violated the responsibilities she owed Client when she tried to
16 develop a personal relationship with Client while providing counseling services to Client.

17 7. Respondent failed to provide the counseling services the Client had requested.
18 Client, an artist, was having self-doubts about Client’s creative abilities and was unable
19 to work on Client’s art projects. Client also had emotional issues, including prior abusive
20 relationships, depression and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Client chose
21 Respondent in part because of her specialization in treating issues of depression and
22 PTSD. However, Client made it clear that the focus of the counseling be on Client’s
23 current work goals, not on trauma recovery. Despite Client’s instructions, Respondent

1 focused more on past traumas and away from Client's work goals to the point where
2 Client began to have thoughts of suicide.

3 8. Respondent encouraged Client to email her whenever Client felt overwhelmed.
4 After the first email, Respondent wrote back immediately and instructed Client to email
5 her every day so she would know how Client was doing. Although Client wanted to step
6 away from counseling in between sessions and focus on Client's life and work, if Client
7 did not communicate with Respondent, Client would receive anxious emails asking
8 Client to write to Respondent immediately which was contrary to the services Client
9 requested.

10 9. All licensees must ensure that their own personal problems are not allowed to
11 impair their counseling abilities. Licensees are prohibited from practicing "when
12 adversely influenced by either physical or emotional impairment that would interfere
13 with their ability to provide professional services" OAR 833-100-0021(7).

14 10. Respondent continued to provide counseling services to clients while she was
15 adversely affected by a serious personal crisis.

16 11. Licensees are also required to "seek appropriate professional assistance for the
17 licensee's own personal problems or conflicts that are likely to impair the licensee's work
18 performance or clinical judgment" OAR 833-100-0021(4).

19 12. Respondent provided counseling services without seeking appropriate
20 professional assistance to address a serious personal crisis.

21 13. The Notice was served on Respondent by certified and regular mail on March 16,
22 2010. By letter dated April 1, 2010, Respondent informed the Board that she wished to
23 waive her right to a hearing.

1 **FINAL ORDER**

2 **NOW THEREFORE**, the Board hereby **ORDERS** that:

3 1. Respondent Linda L. Simpson's license as a Licensed Professional Counselor is
4 **REVOKED**. Respondent will immediately surrender her license to the Board and will
5 no longer be a Licensed Professional Counselor;

6 2. Respondent shall forever be prohibited from: (a) reapplying for or seeking
7 reinstatement of her LPC license; (b) applying for a new LPC or LMFT license; and (c)
8 applying for or reapplying to practice as a LPC or LMFT in the State of Oregon pursuant
9 to ORS 675.745(7);

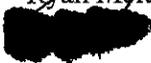
10 3. Respondent is prohibited from using the title of, purporting to be, or practicing as
11 a Licensed Professional Counselor a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, or using
12 any other title that includes those words pursuant to ORS 675.745(7);

13 4. Respondent is **ASSESSED** the Board's costs associated with this action,
14 including the Board's attorney fees, in an amount of **\$917.90**, pursuant to ORS
15 675.745(7); and

16 5. The matter will be reported to the Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank
17 (HIPDB).

18
19 DATED: August 13, 2010.

20
21 Oregon Board of Licensed Professional
22 Counselors and Therapists

23 By 
Ryan Melton, Chair


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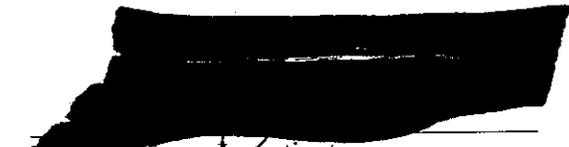
NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

You are entitled to judicial review of this Final Order. You may request judicial review by filing a petition for review with the Oregon Court of Appeals in Salem, Oregon within sixty (60) days from service of this Final Order. Judicial review is pursuant to the provisions of ORS 183.482.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 17th day of August, 2010, I served the foregoing **FINAL ORDER BY DEFAULT REVOKING LICENSE** by depositing a true copy of the same in a sealed envelope sent by regular US mail, addressed as follows:

Linda L. Simpson
3206 NE Dekum Street
Portland OR 97211


Brian Johnson, Investigator
Board of Licensed Professional Counselors
and Therapists

cc: Kelly M. Gabliks, DOJ
Department of Justice
General Counsel/Business Activities Section
1162 Court Street NE
Salem OR 97310