

BEFORE THE
BOARD OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS
STATE OF OREGON

In the matter of the Professional Counselor)	
License of)	
)	FINAL ORDER BY DEFAULT
RICHARD N. WAHLSTROM)	LICENSE SUSPENSION
)	
Licensee.)	

On or about April 13, 1998, a Notice stating that the Board intended to suspend the professional counselor license (C0866) of Richard N. Wahlstrom, (Licensee) was served by certified mail. The Notice alleged the Licensee violated client-counselor boundaries by engaging in dual relationships while practicing as a professional counselor. The Notice further granted the Licensee an opportunity for hearing, if requested within 30 days of service of the Notice. No such request for hearing has been received by the Board. The Notice designated the Board's file on this matter as the record for purposes of default.

NOW THEREFORE, after consideration of the record relating to this matter at its June 26, 1998 meeting, a majority of the Board enters the following Order.

FINDING OF FACT

1. Licensee began private practice as a counselor in February 1990 and has been licensed as a professional counselor since June 3, 1991. Licensee provides counseling services at New Life Counseling in Portland, Oregon.
2. Prior to licensure, Licensee was Associate Pastor at Hinson Memorial Baptist Church in Portland, Oregon (the Church). For over 15 years as Associate Pastor, Licensee provided both ministerial and pastoral counseling services as part of his employment. Licensee continues to be a member of the Church, attends church related social functions, and serves on the Board of Deacons.
3. Licensee provided counseling services to members of the Church to whom he previously served as pastor. Specifically, Licensee ministered to and counseled Client A from approximately 1983 to 1989, performed her marriage, and continued counseling her until August 1997. Licensee as a member of the Board of Deacons also oversaw the employment of Client A in the Church office.
4. Licensee presented himself to Client A as friend, father-figure, mentor, counselor and church leader/employer. Counseling sessions included expressions of love, hugs, and familial kisses.
5. Client A feared other relationships with the Licensee would result in a negative evaluation to the Missionary Board regarding her emotional fitness and the stability of her marriage.

ULTIMATE FINDINGS OF FACT

Licensee entered into multiple relationships with church member clients, including a relationship with Client A, where there was potential for exercising undue influence on the client.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The above-described incidents, in part or in sum, constitute a violation of professional boundaries with clients in contravention ORS 675.745 (1)(d) and OAR 833-060-0001(2)(a)(A) and (B).

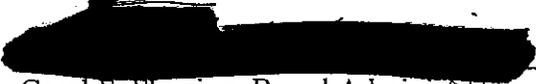
ORDER

The license of Richard N. Wahlstrom to practice as a licensed professional counselor in the State of Oregon is suspended.

Dated this 6th day of July 1998.

BOARD OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS
AND THERAPISTS, STATE OF OREGON

By:


Carol F. Fleming, Board Administrator

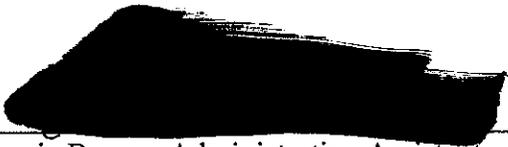
NOTICE: You are entitled to judicial review of this Order. Judicial review may be obtained by filing a petition for review within 60 days from the service of this Order. Judicial review is pursuant to the provisions of ORS 183.482 to the Oregon Court of Appeals.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on July 6, 1998, I served the attached Final Order by Default of License Suspension by mailing via certified mail in a sealed envelope, with postage prepaid, a copy addressed as follows:

Richard N. Wahlstrom
2715 NE 68th Ave
Portland, OR 97213

Receipt No. P 035 083 342


Connie Brown, Administrative Assistant
Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists