

STATE OF OREGON
BOARD OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS

In the Matter of the Professional Counselor)
License of)
)
Holly W. Williams) STIPULATED FINAL ORDER
) OF REPRIMAND

Pursuant to ORS 675.785, and 675.745, the proposed suspension of licensure before the Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists (Board) came as the result of allegations that Holly W. Williams (Licensee) submitted an unsolicited custody evaluation that was not based on clinical hypothesis or the result of standard evaluation activities such as interviews with parents and observations of interactions with the child.

Pursuant to ORS 183.415(5) and OAR 833-050-0030, in order to informally dispose of and settle this matter, Holly W. Williams and the Board, by and through its Administrator, make the following statements:

1.

Licensee admits and stipulates that she has been advised of her right to a hearing in the matter of the Board's proposed suspension of her licensure pursuant to ORS 183.415(2)(a) and to be represented at a hearing pursuant to ORS 183.415(3).

2.

Licensee waives her right to such a hearing and waives the right to be represented at a hearing by an attorney.

3.

Licensee waives any and all civil claim or action against the Board relating to this matter.

4.

The Board and Licensee stipulate to the following: That the Board has jurisdiction, and the right to suspend or revoke a license if the Board were to prove that a licensee violated statute or one or more of the rules of the Board, specifically ORS 675.745(1)(d) and OAR 833-060-0001.

5.

The Board, following its investigation, is concerned that sufficient credible evidence exists to indicate misconduct by the Licensee. The Board alleges that Ms. Williams

(A) Licensee did not follow steps considered necessary within the profession to prepare a child custody evaluation; however, following court testimony regarding therapy sessions with the mother of the child, Licensee sent a letter to the judge recommending custody be given to the mother rather than the father.

(B) In the letter to the judge, Licensee presented statements as to the temperament, behavior, and possible behavior of the father without ever having interviewed him.

Licensee neither admits or denies any misconduct or violation of law or rules:

(A) She acknowledges that she may not have conducted herself within the highest standards of practice by writing an letter that included a general custody recommendation without having conducted an evaluation.

(B) She also states: “At the time I wrote my letter to the Court, I knew that another therapist had seen the child, parents, and stepparents and that the attorney for the father had purposely not called her as a witness to deny the Court her adverse testimony. I had a 15-year professional relationship with this Judge which included myself and other therapists writing letters to him. I worded my letter in a manner designed specifically to gain his attention. He did not use my letter in any way to form his opinion. The letter was written after my testimony, during which I made full disclosure of who I had seen. I was thus motivated to attempt to prevent what I believed would have been a grave injustice to this child.”

6.

The Board and Licensee agree that this matter may be concluded by the entry of this Stipulation on the following terms:

Term #1: Licensee agrees to refrain from writing reports or letters that draw conclusions without following professional standards and procedures as a basis for reaching those conclusions.

Term #2: Licensee agrees that within three months of return to practice she will complete a continuing education training program in ethics.

(A) The training program must be no less than a half-day session. The entire focus of the session must be on ethical issues/practices within the counseling/mental health provider field. Prior approval must be obtained from the Board.

(B) Approval of the ethics training will be obtained by written request to the Board office, which will include a printed description of the training, sponsoring entity, and presenters. The request should allow sufficient time for review and approval/disapproval by a representative of the Board. The Board will apply the standardized continuing education program requirements when evaluating the proposed program.

- (C) The date of return to practice will be the date Licensee provides to the Board in writing. This may be a future date or within 30 days of actual return to practice. The date of the training must be within 90 days either before or after this date.
- (D) The clock hours of training may be reported as continuing education to apply toward the hours need to meet the continuing education requirement for renewal of license.

Term # 3: Licensee agrees to pay to the Board, and submits with this order, the amount of \$75 to help offset the costs of preparation and supervision of this agreement. Licensee further agrees bear any costs involved with compliance with the terms of the agreement.

Term #4: The Board agrees that its proposed order of suspension is withdrawn, but formally reprimands Ms. Williams for failing to act in accordance with the highest standards of professional integrity and deportment.

7.

If the Board finds, after a contested case hearing, that Licensee has materially violated any of the terms of this stipulation, the violation shall constitute grounds for revocation of license, which will prevent re-licensure for five years.

If Licensee requests permission to resign license or allows license to expire before completing the terms of this agreement, the status will reflect forfeiture of license while under disciplinary action.

8.

IT IS SO STIPULATED:



 Holly W. Williams, EPC No. C0182

11-22-99

 Date



 Carol F. Fleming, Administrator
 Board of Licensed Professional Counselors
 and Therapists
 3218 Pringle Rd SE #160
 Salem, OR 97302-6312 503 378-5499

11/22/99

 Date