

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

In the Matter of:

LAURA SHEPPARD, LPC,

Respondent.

) Agency Case No. 2012-007
) DOJ File No. 108001-GB0440-12
)
)
) **SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND**
) **STIPULATED FINAL ORDER**

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

1. The Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists (Board) is the state agency responsible for licensing, regulating and disciplining Licensed Professional Counselors, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists, and registered Interns in the State of Oregon.

2. At all relevant time's material herein, Laura Sheppard (Respondent) was licensed as a Professional Counselor. The Board has jurisdiction over the Respondent under ORS 675.705 to 675.835. Hereinafter Respondent and the Board are collectively referred to as the "Parties."

3. On September 11, 2012, the Board issued a Notice of Intent to Impose Discipline on Respondent for the inappropriate disclosure of confidential client information.

4. The Parties desire to settle this matter and, pursuant to ORS 183.415(3), stipulate and agree as follows in full and complete settlement of the matter currently pending, subject to final approval by the Board:

4.1 This Settlement Agreement is conditioned upon and subject to final approval by the Board;

4.2 In 2011-2012, Respondent discussed confidential client information with her boyfriend regarding two separate clients without obtaining written consent

from those clients. Respondent also took telephone calls from two clients in her boyfriend's presence, further disclosing confidential client information.

4.3 Based on the above, Respondent committed the following violations:

A. Respondent violated client confidences when she disclosed confidential client information to boyfriend without written consent from those clients in violation of ORS 675.745(1)(e), ORS 675.675 and OAR 833-100-0051(1) & (3);

B. Respondent failed to safeguard client confidences and disclosed confidential client information when she took telephone calls from Client A and Client B in Boyfriend's presence instead of finding a private place to speak to these clients in violation of ORS 675.745(1)(e), ORS 675.765 and OAR 833-100-0051(1) & (3); and

C. Respondent failed to conform to the highest standards of professional conduct when she engaged in the behavior described above in violation of ORS 675.745(1)(e), OAR 833-100-0061(1), and OAR 833-100-00071(1).

4.4 The Final Order below may be issued and entered;

4.5 This Settlement Agreement and Stipulated Final Order is a public document;

4.6 Respondent has been fully advised of her right to a contested case hearing under the Oregon Administrative Procedures Act (ORS Chapter 183), and fully and finally waives all such rights and any rights to appeal or otherwise challenge this Settlement Agreement and Stipulated Final Order;

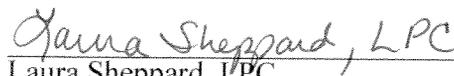
4.7 Respondent acknowledges by her signature below that she fully understands the terms of this Settlement Agreement and Stipulated Final Order. Respondent declares that she has carefully reviewed the terms of this Settlement Agreement and consents to the issuance and entry of the Final Order below, that

she knows the contents thereof, that she has had adequate opportunity to consult with others of her choosing, including legal counsel, and that she has voluntarily accepted the terms set forth herein; and

4.8 Entry of the Final Order below in no way limits or prevents further remedies, sanctions, or actions that may be available to the Board to enforce the Final Order, for violations of the Final Order, for conduct or actions of Respondent not covered by the Final Order, or against a party not covered by the Final Order.

5. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties in accordance with Oregon law. No waiver, consent, modification or change of terms of this Agreement shall bind any party unless in writing and signed by all parties. Such waiver, consent, modification or change, if made, shall be effective only in the specific instance and for the specific purpose given. There are no understandings, agreements or representations, oral or written, not specified herein regarding this Agreement. The Board and Respondent, by their signatures, hereby acknowledge that they have read this Agreement, understand it, and agree to be bound by its terms and conditions.

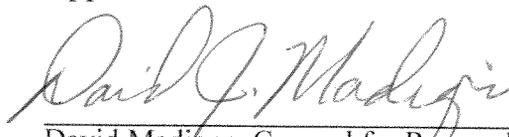
IT IS SO STIPULATED AND AGREED TO BY:



Laura Sheppard, LPC

Dated: 3/20/13

Approved as to form:



David Madigan, Counsel for Respondent

Dated: 3/21/13

///

**BOARD OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL
COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS
State of Oregon**

By:



Ryan Melton, Chair

Dated:

4/12/13

FINAL ORDER

Based on the stipulation and settlement between the Parties set forth above, which is incorporated herein by this reference, pursuant to ORS 675.825(1), it is hereby **ORDERED**:

- A. Respondent Laura Sheppard's work must be supervised for one (1) year consisting of two sessions a month for at least three (3) months and then may be reduced to once (1) a month if the Board-approved supervisor determines that the confidentiality concerns set out above are being addressed;
- B. At the end of the one year period, the supervisor must prepare a report for the Board assessing whether Respondent has addressed these concerns. At that time, the Board will determine whether additional supervision is necessary;
- C. Respondent must complete an education course on ethics, no credits for which may be used to satisfy continuing education requirements, within one (1) year from the date of the Final Order;
- D. Respondent must attend an interview with an Ethics Expert, selected by the Board, who will provide a Report to the Board assessing Respondent's understanding of client confidentiality requirements; and

///

///

///

E. Respondent is assessed the costs associated with this disciplinary process,
including attorney fees pursuant to ORS 675.745(7), in the amount of **\$429.00**.

DATED and ISSUED this 12 day of ^{April}~~February~~, 2013

**BOARD OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL
COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS
State of Oregon**

By:  _____
Ryan Melton, Chair