

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

In the Matter of)	Agency Case No. 2016-005
)	
)	
GROVER P. PRIDMORE, LPC)	NOTICE OF INTENT TO REVOKE
)	LICENSE
Respondent)	

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. ORS 675.705 to 675.835; OAR 833-001-0000 to 833-130-0080. Grover P. Pridmore, LPC, C3086 (Respondent) holds an active license to practice as a licensed professional counselor in the State of Oregon.

2.

The Board proposes to take disciplinary action, to include revocation of license and to require Respondent to pay the costs of the disciplinary process pursuant to ORS 675.745(2). The Board has adopted a Code of Ethics (Code) that applies to all Respondents. See OAR 833, Division 100. The Code “constitutes the standards against which the required professional conduct of licensed professional counselors and marriage and family therapists is measured.” OAR 833-100-0011(1). The Code’s goal is “the welfare and protection of the individuals and groups with whom counselors and therapists work.” *Id.*

3.

Respondent has engaged in acts and conduct that reflect a lack of integrity and violate ORS 675.745(1)(e) and (f) and the specified code of ethics as follows:

3.1 Respondent formerly lived and worked in the State of Washington as a licensed professional counselor. On December 4, 2008, the Department of Health, State of Washington,

1 sent Respondent a letter informing him that the “Counseling Program received a report about
2 alleged unprofessional conduct” in his regard, but that the Program determined there was not
3 cause for disciplinary action and that the case “is being closed because it was a
4 communication/personality issue.” Respondent subsequently submitted an application to the
5 Board, dated October 29, 2012, in which Respondent answered “no” to the following question:
6 “Have you ever been the subject of a complaint to a professional organization, association,
7 licensing board or agency?” Respondent’s answer of “no” was not accurate and violated OAR
8 833-100-0041(1) Integrity; OAR 833-100-0061 (2) Conduct and Competence.

9 3.2 Respondent executed a Professional Practice/Work History form that he
10 submitted to his employer, Albany Counseling Center, in May of 2012. In this form, Respondent
11 stated that his previous practice location included New Hope Counseling Services (Private
12 Practice) from 01/2007 to 7/1/2012, at 324 N. Coast Hwy, Newport, Oregon and in Colville,
13 Washington. This is inconsistent with the timeline of work history Respondent provided to the
14 Board, which reflects that he worked under contract with the Yakima Veterans Center from 2009
15 until September of 2012. Respondent’s inconsistent response to the Albany Counseling Center
16 reflects a lack of integrity and honesty, in violation of OAR 833-100-0041(1) Integrity; OAR
17 833-100-0061 (2) Conduct and Competence.

18 3.4 After moving to Oregon, Respondent asked Witness 1 (his girlfriend at the time)
19 to perform typing services for him. Respondent allowed Witness 1 to have access to his client
20 files. Contrary to what Respondent told the Board’s Investigator, Respondent did not inform his
21 employer (the Albany Counseling Center) of this arrangement. Respondent also failed to ask
22 Witness 1 to sign a confidentiality agreement, and to refrain from providing confidential
23 documents to her prior to having a signed confidentiality agreement on file. Respondent’s
24 conduct breached client confidentiality, and violated OAR 833-100-0031(1) and (2) (Client
25 Welfare) and OAR 833-100-0051(1) and (3) (Confidentiality).

1 3.5 Respondent discussed client confidential information with a (now former)
2 girlfriend with enough detail that she was able to identify a particular client that he was talking
3 about. Respondent's conduct breached client confidentiality, and violated OAR 833-100-
4 0031(1) and (2) (Client Welfare) and OAR 833-100-0051(1) and (3) (Confidentiality).

5 3.6 During the investigative interview on May 19, 2016, the Board's investigator
6 asked Respondent if he had ever been the subject of a police investigation with an allegation of
7 rape. Respondent answered no. In fact, Respondent was contacted by the Moses Lake Police
8 Department on January 25, 2015, and was asked to respond to an allegation of forcible rape, that
9 allegedly occurred in 2011. Respondent denied the allegation and agreed to provide the police
10 with a written statement. Respondent was not indicted or charged and the investigation was
11 closed. Respondent's answer was inaccurate and dishonest, in violation of OAR 833-100-
12 0041(1); OAR 833-100-0061 (2) Conduct and Competence.

13 3.7 The Board reviewed Respondent's client record for Client A, and found that
14 Respondent's chart failed to comply with OAR 833-100-0021(16), which requires licensees to
15 make available as part of the professional disclosure statement a bill of rights of clients,
16 including a statement "that consumers of counseling or therapy services offered by Oregon
17 licensees have the right:

18 (a) To expect that a licensee has met the minimum qualifications of training and
19 experience required by state law;

20 (b) To examine public records maintained by the Board and to have the Board confirm
21 credentials of a licensee;

22 (c) To obtain a copy of the Code of Ethics;

23 (d) To report complaints to the Board;

24 (e) To be informed of the cost of professional services before receiving the services;

25 (f) To be assured of privacy and confidentiality while receiving services as defined by
26 rule or law, including the following exceptions:

 (A) Reporting suspected child abuse;

1 (B) Reporting imminent danger to the client or others;

2 (C) Reporting information required in court proceedings or by client's insurance
3 company or other relevant agencies;

4 (D) Providing information concerning licensee case consultation or supervision;
5 and

6 (E) Defending claims brought by the client against licensee;

7 (g) To be free from being the object of discrimination on any basis listed in subsection (9)
8 of this rule while receiving services.

9 In response to questions presented by the Board's Investigator in May of 2016, Respondent
10 indicated that he did not provide to any of his clients in Oregon the required bill of rights of
11 clients, in violation of ORS 675.745(1)(f) and OAR 833-100-0021(16).

12 4.

13 "A licensee's primary professional responsibility is to the client. A licensee makes every
14 reasonable effort to advance the welfare and best interests of all clients for whom the licensee
15 provides professional services." OAR 833-100-0021(1). A licensee must act in accordance
16 "with the highest standards of professional integrity and competence." OAR 833-100-0041(1).
17 Respondent engaged in conduct that violated OAR 833-100-0061 (2) and the following ethical
18 standards:

19 4.1 A licensee's primary professional responsibility is to the client. A licensee makes
20 every reasonable effort to advance the welfare and best interests of all clients and must provide
21 as part of the disclosure statement a bill of rights of clients. OAR 833-100-0021(16).

22 4.2 A licensee is required to "strive to benefit those with whom they work and take
23 care to do no harm." OAR 833-100-0031(1). A licensee is required to take reasonable steps to
24 avoid harming clients. OAR 833-100-0031(2).

25 4.3 A licensee must acts in accordance with the highest standards of professional
26 integrity and competence. A licensee is honest in dealing with clients, colleagues, related third
parties and the public. OAR 833-100-0041(1) and (2).

4.4 A licensee holds in confidence all information obtained in the course of professional services. A licensee safeguards client confidences as permitted by rule or law and a licensee, including employees and professional associates of the licensee, do not disclose any confidential information that the licensee may have acquired except as permitted by rule or law. OAR 833-100-0051(1) and (3).

5.

The Board has authority to revoke a license to practice and to assess costs of the disciplinary process pursuant to ORS 675.745(2). The Board has authority to investigate complaints under ORS 675.785(5). The Board reserves the right to amend this Notice and impose additional sanctions as allowed under the Board's authority.

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO REQUEST A HEARING

6.

Pursuant to the Oregon Administrative Procedures Act, ORS Chapter 183, Respondent has the right to request a hearing in this matter. A request for hearing must be submitted in writing and must be **received** by the Board, at the following address, during regular business hours, within twenty-one (21) calendar days of the date on which this Notice is mailed:

Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists

3218 Pringle Road SE, Suite 250

Salem, OR 97302-6312

If Respondent fails to request a hearing, Respondent's right to a hearing shall be considered waived.

7.

Pursuant to OAR 833-001-0010 and OAR 833-001-0015, if Respondent requests a hearing, Respondent is further required to promptly file with the Board, at the same time, a written Answer that includes a short, plain statement of each relevant affirmative defense Respondent asserts.

1 **NOTICE OF CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO FILE AN ANSWER**

2 8.

3 Pursuant to OAR 833-001-0015(3), if Respondent fails to file an Answer, the following
4 consequences will occur:

5 (a) Respondent's failure to raise a particular defense in Respondent's Answer shall be
6 considered a waiver of such defense;

7 (b) New matters alleged in Respondent's Answer (affirmative defenses) are presumed
8 to be denied by the Board; and

9 (c) Evidence shall not be taken on any issue not raised in the Notice or Respondent's
10 Answer.

11 9.

12 If Respondent requests a hearing, Respondent will be notified of the time and date of the
13 hearing. The hearing will be conducted according to the contested case procedures described in
14 ORS 183.411 to 183.470 and OAR 137-003-0501 to 0700. Respondent has the right to represent
15 herself at such hearing or to be represented by legal counsel. Attached is information on
16 procedures, right of representation and other rights of Respondents relating to the conduct of the
17 hearing as required by ORS 183.413(2) (Notice of Contested Case Rights and Procedures).

18 **NOTICE TO ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS**

19 10.

20 Active duty service members have a right to stay these proceedings under the federal
21 service members Civil Relief Act. For more information contact the Oregon State Bar at 800-
22 452-8260, the Oregon Military Department at 800-452-7500 or the nearest United States Armed
23 Forces Legal Assistance Office through <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil>.

24 11.

25 In the event Respondent fails to request a hearing, withdraws her request for a hearing,
26 notifies the Board or the Administrative Law Judge assigned to this matter that Respondent does
not intend to appear for the hearing, or fails to appear for the hearing on this matter, the Board

1 may issue a Final Order by Default and impose the proposed discipline. Respondent's
2 submissions to the Board regarding the subject of this board action and all information in the
3 Board's files relevant to the subject of this case automatically become part of the evidentiary
4 record upon default for the purpose of proving a *prima facie* case. ORS 183.417(4).

5
6 DATED: July 5, 2016

7 Oregon Board of Licensed Professional
8 Counselors and Therapists

9 By

10 Charles Hill
11 Executive Director
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26