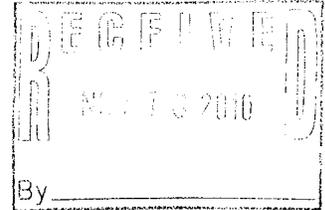


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BEFORE THE  
NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

In Re: )  
)  
Barbara L. Rice ) CONSENT ORDER  
RESPONDENT )  
)

Respondent Barbara L. Rice, LPC was the subject of a complaint in which it was alleged that she violated several provisions of the ACA Code of Ethics. Through her attorney, Christopher P. Justice, Respondent acknowledged that she did in fact engage in a relationship with a former client, in violation of section A.5.b. of the ACA Code of Ethics, which was adopted by the Board as a its Code of Ethics in Rule 21 NCAC 53.0102 and thus also violated the terms of N.C.G.S. 90-340(a)(7). The Board has just cause to take disciplinary action against Respondent.

Counsel for the Board and Respondent's Attorney, having discussed the matters at issue in this case with each other and with their respective clients; and it further appearing that it would serve the ends of justice that a Consent Order be entered which will resolve this matter, and to that end, with the consent of all parties, the Board hereby enters the following Order:

1. Respondent's license is hereby suspended for six (6) months beginning August 15, 2010.
2. Respondent shall remain in counseling with her therapist.
3. At the conclusion of the fifth month of suspension, that is on or about January 15, 2011, the therapist shall report to the Board regarding any concerns she or he may have about Respondent's emotional and ethical fitness to practice counseling. If there are no concerns, the Respondent can resume the practice of counseling under the terms of this order after the six

months is up. If there are concerns, the Respondent cannot resume the practice of counseling until authorized by the Board after a review of the concerns and whether the provisions of this order will address them.

4. Once she resumes counseling, Respondent will be on probationary status and will practice only under supervision by a Board Approved Supervisor for a period of twelve (12) months probation. The supervision will be one hour for every 40 hours of client contact for the full 12 months, and must be face to face supervision. The Respondent will submit proposed supervisor names to the Board within 60 days of the date of this order so that the approval process may be completed prior to the expiration of the six month suspension. The supervisor cannot be a person with whom Respondent has a current personal or professional relationship, and cannot be the same person who is providing therapy services.

5. Respondent shall remain in counseling with her therapist during the six (6) months suspension and also during the twelve (12) months supervised probationary period if recommended by the therapist in the report to the Board.

6. Respondent shall successfully complete six (6) hours of continuing education on dual relationships within six months of the date of this order.

7. Respondent shall successfully complete six (6) hours of continuing education on general ethics issues within nine (9) months of the date of this order.

8. Respondent shall maintain all required CEU's for her renewal which will be due in 2011. The 12 hours of continuing education required by this order are in addition to the hours needed for renewal.

9. Respondent shall abide by the ACA Code of Ethics at all times.

10. This suspension portion of this consent order is effective as of 15 August 2010, so the time frames are that the suspension will be in effect until February 15, 2011, and the 12 months probation begins on that date unless otherwise determined by the Board.

11. This order is a public record.

12. Failure of Respondent to abide by the terms of this agreement can be grounds for further disciplinary action by the Board upon showing of probable cause and due notice to Respondent.

This the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Nov. 2010.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Christine Greene  
Chairperson, NCBLPC

CONSENTED TO:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara L. Rice, LPC, Respondent