

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA
BOARD OF LICENSED
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
CHERI PEELE,)
Respondent.)
)
Case Numbers 1646, 1655 & 1704)

CONSENT ORDER

THIS CAUSE, coming on to be heard and being heard before the North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors (“the Board”), at its meeting on April 24, 2018, pursuant to a Charge Letter issued by the Ethics Review Committee of the Board on November 15, 2017; and

IT APPEARING to the Board that the Respondent has stipulated to certain facts and to the entry of a Consent Order in conformity therewith;

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED by the undersigned Respondent and the Board that:

1. Respondent was at all times relevant to this cause a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and is subject to the Board’s jurisdiction pursuant to the North Carolina Licensed Professional Counselors Act, Chapter 90, Article 24 of the North Carolina General Statutes.
2. As an LPC, Respondent provided counseling services to client DF, as a result of emotional stress due to a job injury that prevented him from working. Respondent began providing counseling to client DF in or around the Spring of 2013. After losing insurance coverage, client DF remained in counseling with Respondent and paid out of pocket for the counseling sessions. Respondent consents to the fact that there is sufficient evidence upon which this Board could make a finding that she began a romantic relationship with client DF, which involved sexually intimate conduct, and which is prohibited by the LPC Practice Act and American Counseling Association Code of Ethics.
3. As an LPC, from 2011 through 2015, Respondent provided counseling services to client WH and her ex-husband, GH. Respondent was providing counseling services to them individually and on occasion Respondent saw them together for counseling services. On June 10, 2013, Respondent obtained an authorization from WH to discuss her confidential health information with GH, and which release expired on June 9, 2014. Respondent admits that there is sufficient evidence upon which this Board could make a finding that she shared confidential information learned in counseling sessions from one client with the other client, without obtaining either client’s consent after June 9, 2014.
4. Respondent admits that there is sufficient evidence upon which this Board could make a

finding that she took motorcycle rides together with client GH on his motorcycle while providing counseling services to him, and that she engaged in a sexually intimate conversations with him.

5. Respondent admits that there is sufficient evidence upon which this Board could make findings of fact that her conduct as set forth in Paragraphs 2 through 4 above, violates Sections A. 4.a, A 5.a., A 5.c., A.5.e., A .6.b., A 6.c., A. 6.e., A 8, B 1.b., and B 1.c.. of the American Counseling Association Code of Ethics (2014); and violates N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 90-340 (a)(9),(a)(10), and (a)(13) of the Licensed Professional Counselors Act.

6. The Board and Respondent wish to avoid the time and the costs associated with full litigation of this matter and, in lieu of any proceedings, enter into this Consent Order.

7. Respondent expressly waives notice of hearing, a hearing, the making of findings of fact and conclusions of law, and all further proceedings before the Board to which the Respondent may be entitled by law. Respondent further agrees that presentation of this Consent Order to the Board for approval shall not constitute improper ex parte communication between the Board and its counsel, or the Board and its staff, nor require the recusal of the members of the Board from consideration of this matter before the full Board, should a hearing be required in this case.

8. Respondent forever releases the State of North Carolina, the North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors, and all its members, officials, agents, representatives and employees, both past and present, in their individual or official capacities from any and all liability, suits, claims, and causes of action, arising prior to or as a result of the execution of this Consent Order.

9. Respondent waives the right to seek judicial review or to otherwise challenge the validity of this Consent Order in any court. Respondent understands and agrees that this Consent Order shall be effective only after approval by the full Board and signature of its Chairperson.

10. This Consent Order contains the entire agreement between the undersigned, there being no agreement of any kind, verbal or otherwise, which varies, alters, or adds to this Consent Order.

Based upon the record and the foregoing stipulations and findings,

NOW, THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

I. The license of the undersigned Respondent is hereby REVOKED.

II. Respondent shall cease to engage in any activities that meet the definition of the practice of counseling under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-330(a)(3) or fall under the prohibitions set forth in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-331.

III. Respondent shall turn in her license to practice counseling in North Carolina to the Board no later than April 30, 2018. She shall mail her license to: Stefon Plummer, Board Administrator, North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors, Post Office Box 77819, Greensboro, North Carolina 27417.

IV. Should Respondent apply to this Board for licensure at any time in the future, the Board shall have access to its entire investigative file for purposes of considering such application.

V. The failure of Respondent to abide by any provisions of this Consent Order shall result in further action by the Board, including seeking an injunction in Superior Court, in the discretion of the Board.

VI. The Board shall maintain this Consent Order as a public record pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §§132-1 and 90-340(f) and shall provide copies to the American Counseling Association and the National Board of Certified Counselors, and to other agencies or individuals, as required by law.

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This the 27th day of April, 2018.

CONSENTED TO BY:

NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF
LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

BY: Wayne Mixon 4/24/18
Wayne Mixon, MBA date
Board Chairperson

Cheri Peele 4-21-18
Cheri Peele, LPC date
Respondent

Ranee Singleton 4/23/18
Ranee Singleton, PLLC date
Attorney for Respondent