

IN THE MATTER OF * BEFORE THE STATE
DEBORAH S. LEVINSON, L.C.P.C. * BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL
RESPONDENT * COUNSELORS AND
LICENSE NUMBER: LC0049 * THERAPISTS

* * * * *

CONSENT ORDER

The Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the "Board") charged **Deborah S. Levinson, L.C.P.C., Certificate Number: LC0049 (the "Respondent")**, with violating certain provisions of the Maryland Professional Counselors and Therapists Act (the "Act"), Md. Health Occ. Code Ann., ("H.O.") §§ 17-101 et seq. (2001 and Supp. 2002). Specifically, the Board charged the Respondent with violating the following:

H.O. § 17-313:

Subject to the hearing provisions of §17-314 of this subtitle, the Board, on the affirmative vote of a majority of its member then serving, may deny a certificate to any applicant, place any certificate holder on probation, reprimand any certificate holder, or suspend or revoke a certificate of any certificate holder if the applicant or certificate holder:

- (4) Violates the code of ethics adopted by the Board;
- (8) Submits a false statement to collect a fee.

The Board also voted to charge the Respondent with violating the following:

Code Md. Regs. tit. 10, § 58.03 Code of Ethics (1999):

02. Ethical Responsibilities.

A. A certified professional counselor (C.P.C.) may not:

- (2) Misrepresent any professional qualifications,

education, experience, or affiliation.

The Respondent was given notice of the issue underlying the Board's charges by notice dated September 23, 2002. A Case Resolution Conference was held on November 15, 2002, and was attended by Katherine E. Oakes, Ph.D., Deborah G. Haskins, Ph.D., and Paul Duncan, Board members; Aileen Taylor, Executive Director of the Board; and Noreen Rubin, Counsel to the Board. Also in attendance were the Respondent, her attorney, Nancy E. McGregor, and the Administrative Prosecutor, Sherrai V. Hamm, Assistant Attorney General.

The parties were unable to agree to a settlement. After deliberation, the Board members made a proposal for settlement, which the Respondent accepted. Thus, the parties and the Board agreed to resolve the matter by way of settlement. The Board made the following determination:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Respondent was originally issued a license to practice as a certified professional counselor ("C.P.C") on or about October 19, 1988.¹
2. In or around 1992, the Respondent formed a professional relationship with Dr. Irma Chance ("Dr. Chance"), a physician who was licensed in the State of Maryland. The Respondent worked in Dr. Chance's group practice, which was located in the Village of Cross Keys in Baltimore, Maryland.
3. In or around January 2000, the Board received a complaint from CareFirst

¹ The Respondent became a licensed clinical professional counselor on January 15, 1999.

BlueCross BlueShield ("BCBS")², which alleged that the Respondent had submitted false claim forms to BCBS under the corporate provider number and supervision of Dr. Chance. BCBS learned that Dr. Chance was no longer licensed to practice medicine in Maryland, she had moved out of state to Massachusetts, and the clinical services for which claims had been filed under Dr. Chance's provider number had been provided by the Respondent, who was supervised by Dr. Chance by telephone from Massachusetts.³

4. On or about January 8, 1993, Dr. Chance filed, and the State of Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation approved, Articles of Incorporation of Irma Chance, M.D., P.A., a professional corporation, "to engage in every aspect of the general practice of psychiatry and psychology" through its employees.

5. On or about February 2, 1993, Dr. Chance submitted a Physician Application (the "Application") to BCBS for her group practice to participate with BCBS. Dr. Chance stated that the location of her group practice was the Village of Cross Keys in Baltimore City and listed the Respondent, one other certified professional counselor, and a licensed social worker as her "associates" in her group practice.

² CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield was known as BlueCross BlueShield of Maryland during the time that Dr. Chance was a member and held a participating provider number; and for simplification, will be referred to throughout this document as BCBS.

³ Since 1985, when the State began regulation of professional counselors, there has not been a requirement that professional counselors be supervised in order to practice. Certified professional counselors may practice professional counseling independently. Until 1999, BCBS did not issue provider numbers to and did not reimburse professional counselors who practiced independently because they were not "licensed" health care providers. However, BCBS did reimburse for psychiatric services provided by a certified professional counselor under the provider number of a licensed psychologist or licensed psychiatrist who supervised the certified professional counselor.

6. On or about February 2, 1993, Dr. Chance also signed and attached to her Application a "Corporate Participating Physician Agreement" (the "Agreement") in which she agreed as the undersigned that she was a "physician licensed and registered to practice medicine under the laws of the State of Maryland." The Agreement pertained to the compensation Dr. Chance's corporation would receive for services to subscribers of BCBS.

7. On or about February 2, 1993, Dr. Chance signed and attached to her Application, an Authorization and Assignment in which she authorized BCBS to pay directly to Irma Chance, M.D., P.A., the sums which would otherwise be payable to her for her professional services rendered at the Village of Cross Keys, Baltimore City, Maryland.

8. In or around 1992, Dr. Chance had been providing supervision to the Respondent. The supervision pertained to specific patients under the Respondent's care with which the Respondent was having difficult problems, or questions, or who needed medication.

9. On or about August 1, 1994, Dr. Chance submitted to BCBS a "Participating Professional Provider Agreement" (the "Provider Agreement") governing her participation as a provider and applicable to all covered services which she provided.

10. The Provider Agreement required that Dr. Chance must maintain her

license to practice medicine. The Provider Agreement also required that all services be provided by Dr. Chance or by a duly licensed or certified person under the direct supervision of Dr. Chance. The Respondent claims she did not see this agreement.

11. Dr. Chance stated on the Provider Agreement that effective October 1, 1994, the office address and telephone number of the professional corporation would change from the Cross Keys location in Baltimore City, Maryland to a location in Baltimore County, Maryland. The Baltimore County location that Dr. Chance provided is the home and office address of the Respondent.

12. On August 1, 1994, Dr. Chance sent correspondence to BCBS requesting to add certain information to the Provider Agreement. Specifically, Dr. Chance stated that the only independent contractor whose claims for clinical services BCBS could process for reimbursement was the Respondent. She further stated that clinical services rendered and billed under the corporation's provider number would be provided by the Respondent at the Baltimore County address.

13. In 1994, Dr. Chance moved to Massachusetts, where she was licensed to practice medicine⁴, and continued to conduct supervisory sessions with the Respondent from Massachusetts by telephone.

14. On or about July 29, 1996, Dr. Chance submitted to the Board of Physician Quality Assurance an "Application Form for Inactive Status" of her Maryland medical license. The Board of Physician Quality Assurance granted Dr. Chance an inactive license effective October 1, 1996.

⁴ Dr. Chance was issued a license in Massachusetts on August 24, 1994.

II. Patient Specific Allegations

15. On or about August 8, 1999, BCBS received an inquiry from a patient of the Respondent's regarding whether she was "qualified" to render the services as billed. In researching the patient's inquiry, BCBS learned that Dr. Chance was no longer licensed to practice medicine in Maryland. Thereafter, BCBS conducted an audit of claims submitted under Dr. Chance's corporate provider number from September 1, 1996, and August 31, 1999.

16. The audit revealed that the Respondent submitted twenty-three (23) patient claims under Dr. Chance's corporate provider number. BCBS discovered that during that same period of time, the Respondent represented on Health Insurance Claim Forms ("Claim Forms") submitted to BCBS that she was a "L.P.C."

Patients 1 through 23

17. From October 1, 1996 to January 15, 1999⁵, the Respondent on behalf of Patients 1 through 23 (the "Patients"), submitted Claim Forms to BCBS, for benefits for services she rendered to these patients in Maryland. The claims were for periodic individual psychotherapy sessions at \$90-\$100 per one-hour session. Each Claim Form was signed by the Respondent and by Dr. Chance's professional corporation, "Irma Chance, M.D., P.A."⁶

18. The Respondent's signature on Claim Forms for Patients 1 through 23

⁵ This time period reflects the period that the Respondent was not a "licensed" clinical professional counselor and Dr. Chance was not authorized to practice medicine in the State of Maryland.

⁶ The signature of Irma Chance, M. D. was apparently made with a signature stamp.

submitted to BCBS is a certification by the Respondent that psychotherapeutic services to Patients 1 through 23 were performed by the Respondent under the supervision of Dr. Chance.

19. The Respondent also signed Claim Forms using the title of "L.P.C." instead of using "C.P.C.," the correct title for a Certified Professional Counselor.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Board finds that the Respondent violated H.O. §§ 17-313(4) and (8); Code Md. Regs. tit. 10, § 58.03.02A (1999).

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 21ST day of FEBRUARY 2003, the Board, by a majority of the quorum of the Board, hereby

ORDERED that the Respondent's license be **SUSPENDED** for a period of **six (6) months**, and that said suspension be **IMMEDIATELY STAYED**; and be it further

ORDERED that the Respondent shall be placed on **PROBATION** for a period of **one (1) year** subject to the following conditions:

1. The Respondent's counseling practice shall be supervised, at her own expense, by a Board-approved licensed clinical professional counselor with experience and expertise in the field.
2. The supervising counselor shall notify the Board in writing of his/her acceptance of the supervisory role of the Respondent.
3. The supervision shall continue for the entire one-year probationary period.
4. The Respondent shall meet face to face with the supervising counselor on a weekly basis for the first three (3) months; biweekly for the next six (6) months of her probationary period; and monthly for the last ~~two~~ ^{three} (3) months of her probationary period. The supervising counselor shall submit quarterly reports to the Board.

7
↓
three
changed 2/20/03

The Respondent has sole responsibility for ensuring that the supervising counselor submits the required quarterly reports.

5. The supervision must include particular attention to administrative counseling responsibilities, billing, documentation, and ethical financial standards.
6. The Board has sole authority over any changes in supervision and must approve and ratify any changes in supervision.
7. The Respondent shall perform 230 counseling pro bono hours in community service at a Board-approved agency or institution in **Maryland**, and provide to the Board verification and documentation of the hours served.
8. The Respondent shall enroll in a Board-approved graduate level law and ethics course from an accredited college or university at her own expense. At the conclusion of the course, the Respondent shall submit to the Board proof of classroom attendance, and a transcript verifying successful completion of the course.

ORDERED that if the Respondent violates any of the terms or conditions of this Consent Order, including the probationary terms or conditions as set forth herein, then the Board, after a determination of violation and notice, and an opportunity for a hearing, may impose any other disciplinary sanctions it deems appropriate, including suspension or revocation, said violation of probation being proved by a preponderance of evidence; and be it further

ORDERED that at the end of Respondent's probationary period, the Respondent may petition the Board for termination of the probationary status and reinstatement of her license without any conditions or restrictions, provided that she has fulfilled all the terms and conditions of probation set forth herein, is not in violation of this Consent Order, and there are no outstanding complaints against the Respondent. If the Board determines that

the terms of probation have not been successfully completed, then the Board may modify one or more condition upon which the Respondent was placed on probation, upon notice to the Respondent. However, if the Respondent fails to make any such petition, then the probationary period status shall continue indefinitely, subject to the conditions set forth in this Order; and be it further

ORDERED that the Respondent shall practice professional counseling in accordance with the Maryland Professional Counselors and Therapists Act, and in a competent manner; and be it further

ORDERED that in the event the Board finds for any reason in good faith that the Respondent has violated any provision of Title 17 of the Health Occupations Article, Annotated Code of Maryland or the regulations thereunder, the Board, after notification to the Respondent, and an opportunity for a hearing, may take immediate action and may impose any lawful disciplinary sanctions it deems appropriate, including but not limited to revocation or suspension of the Respondent's license to practice professional counseling; and be it further

ORDERED that the Respondent shall be responsible for all costs incurred under this Consent Order; and be it further

ORDERED that for purposes of public disclosure, as permitted by Md. State Gov't. Code Ann. § 10-617(h) (1999 Repl. Vol. and 2002 Supp.), this document consists of the contents of the foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order, and that the Board may also disclose to any national reporting bank to whom the Board is mandated to report; and be it further

ORDERED that the conditions of this Consent Order be, and the same is hereby, effective as of the date of this Order; and be it further

ORDERED that this is a **FINAL ORDER** and as such is a public document pursuant to Md. State Gov't. Code Ann. §§ 10-611 et seq. (1999 Repl. Vol. & Supp. 2002).

February 21, 2003

Date

Joanne Faber, LCP

Joanne Faber, MED., C.A.S., L.C.P.C.
Chair

Maryland State Board of Professional
Counselors and Therapists

CONSENT OF DEBORAH S. LEVINSON, L.C.P.C.

I, Deborah S. Levinson, L.C.P.C., by affixing my signature hereto, acknowledge that:

1. I am represented by Howard L. Sollins, Esquire, and I have had the opportunity to consult with counsel before signing this document.

2. I am aware that I am entitled to a formal evidentiary hearing before the Board, pursuant to § 17-314 of the Act, Md. State Gov't. Code Ann. §§ 10-201 seq. (1999 Repl. Vol. & Supp. 2002), and Code Md. Regs. tit. 10, § 58.04(1999).

3. I acknowledge the validity of this Consent Order as if entered after a formal evidentiary hearing in which I would have had the right to counsel, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my own behalf, and to all other substantive and procedural protections provided by law.

4. By entering into this Consent Order, I neither admit nor deny the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, but I voluntarily enter into and consent to the foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order, provided the Board adopts the foregoing Consent Order in its entirety. I waive any right to contest the findings of fact and conclusions of law, and I waive my right to a full evidentiary hearing, as set forth above, and any right to appeal this Consent Order or as set forth in § 17-315 of the Act and Md. State Gov't Code Ann. §§ 10-201 et seq. (Repl. Vol. 1999 and Supp. 2002).

5. I acknowledge that by failing to abide by the conditions set forth in this Consent Order, and, following proper procedures, I may suffer disciplinary action,

which may include revocation of my license to practice professional counseling in the State of Maryland.

6. I sign this Consent Order without reservation as my voluntary act and deed. I acknowledge that I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning, and terms of this Consent Order.

2/20/03

02/13/03

Date

Deborah S. Levinson

Deborah S. Levinson L.C.P.C.

Deborah S. Levinson, L.C.P.C.

Respondent

Read and approved by:

Date

Howard L. Sollins, Esquire

which may include revocation of my license to practice professional counseling in the State of Maryland.

6. I sign this Consent Order without reservation as my voluntary act and deed. I acknowledge that I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning, and terms of this Consent Order.

2/20/03
02/13/03
Date

Deborah S. Levinson
Deborah S. Levinson L.C.P.C.
Deborah S. Levinson, L.C.P.C.
Respondent

Read and approved by:

February 20, 2003
Date

Howard L. Sollins
Howard L. Sollins, Esquire

NOTARY

STATE OF Maryland

CITY/COUNTY OF Baltimore

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT on this 30th day of Feb, 2003, before me, a Notary Public for the State of Maryland and the City/County aforesaid, personally appeared Deborah S. Levinson, L.C.P.C., and made oath in due form of law that the foregoing Consent Order was her voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS my hand and Notarial Seal.

My Commission Expires: 3/1/06


Notary Public

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| IN THE MATTER OF | * | BEFORE THE STATE |
| DEBORAH S. LEVINSON, L.C.P.C. | * | BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL |
| RESPONDENT | * | COUNSELORS AND |
| LICENSE NUMBER: LC0049 | * | THERAPISTS |
| * * * * * | * | * * * * * |

CONSENT ORDER

The Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the "Board") charged **Deborah S. Levinson, L.C.P.C., Certificate Number: LC0049** (the "**Respondent**"), with violating certain provisions of the Maryland Professional Counselors and Therapists Act (the "Act"), Md. Health Occ. Code Ann., ("H.O.") §§ 17-101 *et seq.* (2001 and Supp. 2002). Specifically, the Board charged the Respondent with violating the following:

H.O. § 17-313:

Subject to the hearing provisions of §17-314 of this subtitle, the Board, on the affirmative vote of a majority of its member then serving, may deny a certificate to any applicant, place any certificate holder on probation, reprimand any certificate holder, or suspend or revoke a certificate of any certificate holder if the applicant or certificate holder:

- (4) Violates the code of ethics adopted by the Board;
- (8) Submits a false statement to collect a fee.

The Board also voted to charge the Respondent with violating the following:

Code Md. Regs. tit. 10, § 58.03 Code of Ethics (1999):

02. Ethical Responsibilities.

A. A certified professional counselor (C.P.C.) may not:

- (2) Misrepresent any professional qualifications,

education, experience, or affiliation.

The Respondent was given notice of the issue underlying the Board's charges by notice dated September 23, 2002. A Case Resolution Conference was held on November 15, 2002, and was attended by Katherine E. Oakes, Ph.D., Deborah G. Haskins, Ph.D., and Paul Duncan, Board members; Aileen Taylor, Executive Director of the Board; and Noreen Rubin, Counsel to the Board. Also in attendance were the Respondent, her attorney, Nancy E. McGregor, and the Administrative Prosecutor, Sherrai V. Hamm, Assistant Attorney General.

The parties were unable to agree to a settlement. After deliberation, the Board members made a proposal for settlement, which the Respondent accepted. Thus, the parties and the Board agreed to resolve the matter by way of settlement. The Board made the following determination:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Respondent was originally issued a license to practice as a certified professional counselor ("C.P.C") on or about October 19, 1988.¹
2. In or around 1992, the Respondent formed a professional relationship with Dr. Irma Chance ("Dr. Chance"), a physician who was licensed in the State of Maryland. The Respondent worked in Dr. Chance's group practice, which was located in the Village of Cross Keys in Baltimore, Maryland.
3. In or around January 2000, the Board received a complaint from CareFirst

¹ The Respondent became a licensed clinical professional counselor on January 15, 1999.

BlueCross BlueShield ("BCBS")², which alleged that the Respondent had submitted false claim forms to BCBS under the corporate provider number and supervision of Dr. Chance. BCBS learned that Dr. Chance was no longer licensed to practice medicine in Maryland, she had moved out of state to Massachusetts, and the clinical services for which claims had been filed under Dr. Chance's provider number had been provided by the Respondent, who was supervised by Dr. Chance by telephone from Massachusetts.³

4. On or about January 8, 1993, Dr. Chance filed, and the State of Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation approved, Articles of Incorporation of Irma Chance, M.D., P.A., a professional corporation, "to engage in every aspect of the general practice of psychiatry and psychology" through its employees.

5. On or about February 2, 1993, Dr. Chance submitted a Physician Application (the "Application") to BCBS for her group practice to participate with BCBS. Dr. Chance stated that the location of her group practice was the Village of Cross Keys in Baltimore City and listed the Respondent, one other certified professional counselor, and a licensed social worker as her "associates" in her group practice.

² CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield was known as BlueCross BlueShield of Maryland during the time that Dr. Chance was a member and held a participating provider number, and for simplification, will be referred to throughout this document as BCBS.

³ Since 1985, when the State began regulation of professional counselors, there has not been a requirement that professional counselors be supervised in order to practice. Certified professional counselors may practice professional counseling independently. Until 1999, BCBS did not issue provider numbers to and did not reimburse professional counselors who practiced independently because they were not "licensed" health care providers. However, BCBS did reimburse for psychiatric services provided by a certified professional counselor under the provider number of a licensed psychologist or licensed psychiatrist who supervised the certified professional counselor.

6. On or about February 2, 1993, Dr. Chance also signed and attached to her Application a "Corporate Participating Physician Agreement" (the "Agreement") in which she agreed as the undersigned that she was a "physician licensed and registered to practice medicine under the laws of the State of Maryland." The Agreement pertained to the compensation Dr. Chance's corporation would receive for services to subscribers of BCBS.

7. On or about February 2, 1993, Dr. Chance signed and attached to her Application, an Authorization and Assignment in which she authorized BCBS to pay directly to Irma Chance, M.D., P.A., the sums which would otherwise be payable to her for her professional services rendered at the Village of Cross Keys, Baltimore City, Maryland.

8. In or around 1992, Dr. Chance had been providing supervision to the Respondent. The supervision pertained to specific patients under the Respondent's care with which the Respondent was having difficult problems, or questions, or who needed medication.

9. On or about August 1, 1994, Dr. Chance submitted to BCBS a "Participating Professional Provider Agreement" (the "Provider Agreement") governing her participation as a provider and applicable to all covered services which she provided.

10. The Provider Agreement required that Dr. Chance must maintain her

license to practice medicine. The Provider Agreement also required that all services be provided by Dr. Chance or by a duly licensed or certified person under the direct supervision of Dr. Chance. The Respondent claims she did not see this agreement.

11. Dr. Chance stated on the Provider Agreement that effective October 1, 1994, the office address and telephone number of the professional corporation would change from the Cross Keys location in Baltimore City, Maryland to a location in Baltimore County, Maryland. The Baltimore County location that Dr. Chance provided is the home and office address of the Respondent.

12. On August 1, 1994, Dr. Chance sent correspondence to BCBS requesting to add certain information to the Provider Agreement. Specifically, Dr. Chance stated that the only independent contractor whose claims for clinical services BCBS could process for reimbursement was the Respondent. She further stated that clinical services rendered and billed under the corporation's provider number would be provided by the Respondent at the Baltimore County address.

13. In 1994, Dr. Chance moved to Massachusetts, where she was licensed to practice medicine⁴, and continued to conduct supervisory sessions with the Respondent from Massachusetts by telephone.

14. On or about July 29, 1996, Dr. Chance submitted to the Board of Physician Quality Assurance an "Application Form for Inactive Status" of her Maryland medical license. The Board of Physician Quality Assurance granted Dr. Chance an inactive license effective October 1, 1996.

⁴ Dr. Chance was issued a license in Massachusetts on August 24, 1994.

II. Patient Specific Allegations

15. On or about August 8, 1999, BCBS received an inquiry from a patient of the Respondent's regarding whether she was "qualified" to render the services as billed. In researching the patient's inquiry, BCBS learned that Dr. Chance was no longer licensed to practice medicine in Maryland. Thereafter, BCBS conducted an audit of claims submitted under Dr. Chance's corporate provider number from September 1, 1996, and August 31, 1999.

16. The audit revealed that the Respondent submitted twenty-three (23) patient claims under Dr. Chance's corporate provider number. BCBS discovered that during that same period of time, the Respondent represented on Health Insurance Claim Forms ("Claim Forms") submitted to BCBS that she was a "L.P.C."

Patients 1 through 23

17. From October 1, 1996 to January 15, 1999⁵, the Respondent on behalf of Patients 1 through 23 (the "Patients"), submitted Claim Forms to BCBS, for benefits for services she rendered to these patients in Maryland. The claims were for periodic individual psychotherapy sessions at \$90-\$100 per one-hour session. Each Claim Form was signed by the Respondent and by Dr. Chance's professional corporation, "Irma Chance, M.D., P.A."⁶

18. The Respondent's signature on Claim Forms for Patients 1 through 23

⁵ This time period reflects the period that the Respondent was not a "licensed" clinical professional counselor and Dr. Chance was not authorized to practice medicine in the State of Maryland.

⁶ The signature of Irma Chance, M. D. was apparently made with a signature stamp.

submitted to BCBS is a certification by the Respondent that psychotherapeutic services to Patients 1 through 23 were performed by the Respondent under the supervision of Dr. Chance.

19. The Respondent also signed Claim Forms using the title of "L.P.C." instead of using "C.P.C.," the correct title for a Certified Professional Counselor.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Board finds that the Respondent violated H.O. §§ 17-313(4) and (8); Code Md. Regs. tit. 10, § 58.03.02A (1999).

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 21ST day of FEBRUARY 2003, the Board, by a majority of the quorum of the Board, hereby

ORDERED that the Respondent's license be **SUSPENDED** for a period of **six (6) months**, and that said suspension be **IMMEDIATELY STAYED**; and be it further

ORDERED that the Respondent shall be placed on **PROBATION** for a period of **one (1) year** subject to the following conditions:

1. The Respondent's counseling practice shall be supervised, at her own expense, by a Board-approved licensed clinical professional counselor with experience and expertise in the field.
2. The supervising counselor shall notify the Board in writing of his/her acceptance of the supervisory role of the Respondent.
3. The supervision shall continue for the entire one-year probationary period.
4. The Respondent shall meet face to face with the supervising counselor on a weekly basis for the first three (3) months; biweekly for the next six (6) months of her probationary period; and monthly for the last ~~two (2)~~ three (3) months of her probationary period. The supervising counselor shall submit quarterly reports to the Board.

7
↓
three
changed 2/20/03

The Respondent has sole responsibility for ensuring that the supervising counselor submits the required quarterly reports.

5. The supervision must include particular attention to administrative counseling responsibilities, billing, documentation, and ethical financial standards.
6. The Board has sole authority over any changes in supervision and must approve and ratify any changes in supervision.
7. The Respondent shall perform 230 counseling pro bono hours in community service at a Board-approved agency or institution in **Maryland**, and provide to the Board verification and documentation of the hours served.
8. The Respondent shall enroll in a Board-approved graduate level law and ethics course from an accredited college or university at her own expense. At the conclusion of the course, the Respondent shall submit to the Board proof of classroom attendance, and a transcript verifying successful completion of the course.

ORDERED that if the Respondent violates any of the terms or conditions of this Consent Order, including the probationary terms or conditions as set forth herein, then the Board, after a determination of violation and notice, and an opportunity for a hearing, may impose any other disciplinary sanctions it deems appropriate, including suspension or revocation, said violation of probation being proved by a preponderance of evidence; and be it further

ORDERED that at the end of Respondent's probationary period, the Respondent may petition the Board for termination of the probationary status and reinstatement of her license without any conditions or restrictions, provided that she has fulfilled all the terms and conditions of probation set forth herein, is not in violation of this Consent Order, and there are no outstanding complaints against the Respondent. If the Board determines that

the terms of probation have not been successfully completed, then the Board may modify one or more condition upon which the Respondent was placed on probation, upon notice to the Respondent. However, if the Respondent fails to make any such petition, then the probationary period status shall continue indefinitely, subject to the conditions set forth in this Order; and be it further

ORDERED that the Respondent shall practice professional counseling in accordance with the Maryland Professional Counselors and Therapists Act, and in a competent manner; and be it further

ORDERED that in the event the Board finds for any reason in good faith that the Respondent has violated any provision of Title 17 of the Health Occupations Article, Annotated Code of Maryland or the regulations thereunder, the Board, after notification to the Respondent, and an opportunity for a hearing, may take immediate action and may impose any lawful disciplinary sanctions it deems appropriate, including but not limited to revocation or suspension of the Respondent's license to practice professional counseling; and be it further

ORDERED that the Respondent shall be responsible for all costs incurred under this Consent Order; and be it further

ORDERED that for purposes of public disclosure, as permitted by Md. State Gov't. Code Ann. § 10-617(h) (1999 Repl. Vol. and 2002 Supp.), this document consists of the contents of the foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order, and that the Board may also disclose to any national reporting bank to whom the Board is mandated to report; and be it further

ORDERED that the conditions of this Consent Order be, and the same is hereby, effective as of the date of this Order, and be it further

ORDERED that this is a **FINAL ORDER** and as such is a public document pursuant to Md. State Gov't. Code Ann. §§ 10-611 et seq. (1999 Repl. Vol. & Supp. 2002).

February 21, 2003
Date

Joanne Faber, M.D., C.A.S., L.C.P.C.
Chair
Maryland State Board of Professional
Counselors and Therapists