

**BEFORE THE MINNESOTA
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY**

In the Matter of the License of
Jill A. Peterson, MS, LP
License Number: LP3927

**ORDER FOR
TEMPORARY SUSPENSION
OF LICENSE**

The Minnesota Board of Psychology (“Board”) is authorized pursuant to Minnesota Statutes sections 148.88 to 148.98, 214.10, and 214.103 to license and regulate psychologists, to refer complaints against psychologists to the Attorney General for investigation, and to take disciplinary action when appropriate. In addition, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 148.941, subdivision 3, the Board is authorized to temporarily suspend the credentials of a licensee if, after a preliminary inquiry, the Board reasonably believes that the licensee has violated a statute or rule that the Board is empowered to enforce and continued practice by the licensee would create an imminent risk of harm to others. The authority to investigate complaints, initiate temporary suspension hearings, and file contested case proceedings has been delegated to the Board’s Complaint Resolution Committee (“Committee”).

FINDINGS

1. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 148.941, subdivision 3(c), the Committee finds the following as reasons for the entry of this order.
2. On January 16, 1998, the Board licensed Respondent to practice psychology in the State of Minnesota.
3. In, or around, 2004, Respondent began providing psychological services to two (2) separate clients, L.M. (“Client # 1”) and L.S. (“Client # 2”). Respondent shared private information about each client with the other and engaged in multiple relationships with both clients as follows:

a. In, or around, 2012, Respondent practiced, and continues to practice, out of her home. Respondent provides therapy sessions to clients, including Client # 1 and Client # 2, out of her living room, maintains private client information in her dining room, allows clients to walk through her dining room, where private client information is maintained, and uses her front porch as a waiting room for her clients. Respondent simultaneously rents the upstairs space in her house to tenants who enter the unit through the front porch and are able to see her clients.

Client # 1

b. In 2012, during a therapy session with Client # 1, Respondent became upset with her upstairs tenants, opened a door to the upstairs, and yelled at the tenants to be quiet because she was in a therapy session. Respondent showed Client # 1 pictures of damages the tenants had caused.

c. In, or around, October of 2012, Respondent asked Client # 1 to sign an eviction notice as a witness to the damages and noise caused by her upstairs tenants.

d. In, or around, July of 2013, Respondent contacted Client # 1's employment supervisor to ask if Client # 1 could have time off work to testify on her behalf regarding the eviction. Client # 1 accompanied Respondent to court to testify on the eviction matter but expressed to Respondent that she did not want to testify.

e. In, or around, July of 2013, Client # 1 expressed her intent to stop seeing Respondent for therapy because she felt the sessions were more focused on discussing Respondent's problems.

f. During the course of therapy with Client # 1, Respondent called Client # 1 several times a day to discuss issues Respondent was having with her other clients.

g. Respondent hired Client # 1's ex-boyfriend to do some repair work on Respondent's home. Respondent then called Client # 1 to try to get Client # 1's ex-boyfriend's phone number to discuss issues she was having with his repair work.

Client # 2

h. On July 18, 2013, Client # 2 reported feeling stressed because Respondent was calling her frequently to come visit her and to discuss issues Respondent was having with her tenants and her other clients. Respondent blocked her phone number in order to continue calling Client # 2 after Client # 2 began ignoring her calls.

i. In, or around, July of 2013, Respondent called Client # 2 crying because Client # 1 told her she did not want to see her anymore for therapy. Client # 1 subsequently changed her phone number. Respondent asked Client # 2 for Client # 1's new phone number. When Client # 2 refused to provide the number, Respondent contacted Client # 1's daughter and asked her for Client # 1's new phone number.

j. In, or around, July of 2013, Respondent asked Client # 2 to testify on Respondent's behalf in the eviction matter.

k. During the course of therapy, Respondent would ask Client # 2 to call Medical Assistance because Respondent was having problems getting payments from Medical Assistance for Client # 2's therapy.

l. On, or about, July 25, 2013, Respondent asked Client # 2 to cancel an appointment Client # 2 had made for wrist surgery so that Client # 2 could attend a therapy appointment with Respondent instead.

m. On, or about, July 18, 2013, Client # 2 reported to her current therapist that her therapy sessions with Respondent had devolved into discussions about Respondent's own personal problems.

4. Respondent's client records fail to conform to the standards required by the rules as follows:

a. Respondent's records for Client # 2 do not include documentation of any assessment methods, initial treatment plans, or subsequent revisions, as required by the rules.

b. Respondent's hand-written therapy session notes for Client # 1 are not legible, as required by the rules.

5. Since approximately July of 2013, Respondent has demonstrated an inability to practice psychology with reasonable skill and safety to clients due to a physical or mental illness or condition as follows:

a. In, or around, July of 2013, Client # 2 began to notice lapses in Respondent's memory. Client # 2 reported that Respondent would repeat things she had already told Client # 2 and would mix up appointment times.

b. In, or around, July of 2013, Client # 1 and Client # 2 reported that Respondent appeared "down."

c. In, or around, July of 2013, Respondent told a tenant there was a ghost living in the upstairs apartment and that the prior tenants had "done terrible things." Respondent began behaving strangely, calling the police many times a day, complaining that her flower pots were being stolen when they were not, complaining that someone was peeking in her windows, and consistently banging a broom handle against her ceiling, including during therapy sessions.

d. On August 27, 2013, the Board received a letter from Respondent wherein Respondent states her belief that Client # 2 has been keeping secrets from her.

e. On March 7, 2014, Respondent participated in a conference with the Committee. During the conference, Respondent exhibited bizarre, paranoid, and confused behavior, such as asking the Committee's attorney, Assistant Attorney General Hans A. Anderson, if he was the man who had come into her house as well as indicating her belief that the county was trying to interfere with her clients. Respondent also exhibited limited insight and showed signs of incompetence, such as being unable to recite standard practices, rules, and laws of the practice of psychology. Respondent indicated that she was continuing to see patients and planned to continue to see patients in her current practice setting. The Committee was concerned with Respondent's mental health and her ability to practice with reasonable skill and safety to clients.

6. The Committee has received credible information, and after preliminary inquiry reasonably believes, that Respondent has violated one or more statutes or rules that the Board has authority to enforce, including Minnesota Statutes section 148.941, subdivision 2(a)(1), (3) and (10); as well as Minnesota Rules 7200.4700, subpart 1; 7200.4810, subpart 1.A.; and 7200.4850.

7. After preliminary inquiry, the Committee reasonably believes continued practice by Respondent would create an imminent risk of harm to others.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The Committee reasonably believes that Respondent has violated statutes and rules which the Board is empowered to enforce.
2. The Committee reasonably believes that Respondent's continued practice would create an imminent risk of harm to others.
3. A temporary suspension of Respondent's license is warranted pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 148.941, subdivision 3.

Accordingly, the Board issues the following:

ORDER

1. Respondent's license to practice psychology in the State of Minnesota is **TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED** pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 148.941, subdivision 3. During the period of suspension, Respondent shall not practice psychology in any manner, shall neither offer nor provide psychological services of any kind within Minnesota, and shall cease and desist from the use of the designation "Licensed Psychologist," "LP," or any other designation that implies that Respondent is eligible to practice psychology in the State of Minnesota.

3. This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as the Board issues a final decision in this matter.

4. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 148.941, subdivision 3(c), Respondent is hereby notified that she has the right to request a hearing before the Board regarding the temporary suspension of her license in this matter.

5. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 148.941, subdivision 3(e), the Board shall schedule a hearing to be held before its own members which shall begin no later than 60 days after issuance of this Order for Temporary Suspension, or within 15 working days of the date of the Board's receipt of a request for a hearing by Respondent. The sole issue of the hearing is whether there is a reasonable basis to continue, modify, or lift the temporary suspension. The hearing is not subject to chapter 14. Evidence presented by the Board or Respondent shall be in affidavit form only. Respondent or counsel of record may appear for oral argument.

6. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 148.941, subdivision 3(f), the Board shall issue its order within five working days of the hearing and, if the suspension is continued,

schedule a contested case hearing with the Office of Administrative Hearings within 30 days of the issuance of the order.

Dated: 3/25/, 2014

MINNESOTA BOARD OF
PSYCHOLOGY

By: 
ANGELINA M. BARNES
Executive Director