

**BEFORE THE MINNESOTA
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY
COMPLAINT RESOLUTION COMMITTEE**

In the Matter of the License of
Kristine Abrahamson, M.A., L.P.
License Number: LP3699

**AGREEMENT FOR
CORRECTIVE ACTION**

This agreement is entered into by and between Kristine Abrahamson, M.A., L.P. (“Licensee”), and the Complaint Resolution Committee (“Committee”) of the Minnesota Board of Psychology (“Board”) pursuant to the authority of Minn. Stat. § 214.103, subd. 6(a). Licensee and the Committee hereby agree as follows:

FACTS

1. This agreement is based upon the following facts:
 - a. Licensee provided individual therapy to client #1 between May 2006 and April 2009.
 - b. Licensee provided individual therapy to client #2 between November 2006 and October 2010.
 - c. Licensee provided joint therapy to client #1 and client #2 at various times from November 2006 through April 2009.
 - d. In April 2009, upon client #1’s request, Licensee furnished copies of client #1’s records. Licensee’s therapy notations were handwritten, partially illegible, and only contained short phrases for each session. Licensee’s therapy notations provided little, if any, insight into the sessions with client #1. In addition, Licensee’s records for client #1 did not contain any copies of correspondence relevant to the client #1, any billing information, or signed

authorizations. Licensee's records and documentation for client #1 did not meet minimum standards of professional practice.

e. Within the context of a custody proceeding, a guardian ad litem attempted to contact Licensee with questions pertaining to visitation. Licensee left the guardian a voicemail message that stated Licensee was supportive of client #2 having unsupervised visitation, but failed to provide any information on how Licensee reached that conclusion. The guardian attempted to seek an explanation for Licensee's conclusion. Licensee subsequently spoke to the guardian over the phone and stated that she had concerns about client #1's mental health. At the time these messages were left by Licensee for the guardian in September 2010, Licensee had not had professional contact with client #1 since April 2009.

2. On May 27, 2011, Licensee met with the Committee to discuss the facts set forth in paragraph 1. Licensee advised the Committee that she did not feel that her objectivity was impaired despite the commingling of individual and joint therapy with client #1 and client #2. Licensee acknowledged that she would benefit from continuing education related to professional practice. Licensee advised the Committee that although she may not have personally informed the guardian ad litem that Licensee's last professional contact with client #1 was April 2009, Licensee believed that the guardian was already aware of this time frame. Based on the discussion, the Committee views Licensee's practices to be a violation of Minn. Stat. § 148.941, subd. 2(a)(3), and Minn. R. 7200.5700, and Licensee agrees that the conduct cited above occurred and constitutes a reasonable basis in law and fact to justify the corrective action described in paragraph 3 below.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

3. Licensee agrees to address the conduct referenced in paragraphs 1 and 2 by taking the following corrective actions:

a. **Professional Consultation.** Licensee shall obtain professional consultation from a Minnesota licensed psychologist who engages in the same or similar areas of practice. The professional consultation shall be completed within six (6) months of the date of this Agreement for Corrective Action becomes effective. Licensee shall submit the *curriculum vitae* of the proposed professional consultant for pre-approval by the Committee within 30 days of the date this Agreement for Corrective Action becomes effective. Licensee shall select a consultant with which Licensee has had no previous personal or professional relationship. Upon review, the Committee reserves the right to reject the consultant proposed by Licensee. If the Committee rejects the consultant proposed by Licensee, the Committee may require that Licensee submit additional names, or the Committee may provide Licensee with potential consultants. Licensee shall complete a minimum of eight (8) total hours of consultation. Licensee shall complete additional consultation if recommended by or at the discretion of the consultant.

b. **Report from Consultant.** Within 30 days of Licensee's completion of the professional consultation, the consultant shall submit a report to the Board. The report shall provide and/or address:

- 1) A statement that the consultant has reviewed this Agreement for Corrective Action;
- 2) The dates on which consultations were held with Licensee;
- 3) Licensee's active participation in each consultation;

4) The consultant's opinion as to Licensee's capacity to understand her professional and ethical roles as a psychologist;

5) The consultant's assessment of Licensee's ability to maintain accurate and complete client records, according to minimum standards of professional practice;

6) The consultant's opinion as to whether the consultant believes Licensee has demonstrated a satisfactory understanding of the professional issues giving rise to this Agreement for Corrective Action and whether additional consultations or education is required;

7) All issues discussed during each consultation; and

8) Any other information the consultant believes would assist the Board in its ultimate review in this matter.

c. ***Licensee's Report.*** Within 30 days of Licensee's completion of the professional consultation, Licensee shall submit a report to the Board. The report shall provide and/or address:

1) A brief statement of the topics discussed at each consultation session;

2) What Licensee has learned from the consultations, including her own statement as to her comprehension and knowledge of the professional issues giving rise to this Agreement for Corrective Action; and

3) Any other information Licensee believes would assist the Board in its ultimate review of this matter.

d. ***Client Records Review By Committee.*** After completion of the professional consultation and within 12 months of the date this Agreement for Corrective Action

becomes effective, Licensee shall submit three (3) client files to the Committee for review. The client files shall be representative of Licensee's practice. The files shall include all case notes, diagnostic reports, and any other required documentation according to minimum standards of professional practice. Licensee is responsible for redacting identifying information or obtaining the appropriate written client consent prior to record disclosure to the Committee. The Committee shall be the sole judge of whether Licensee's client files meet minimum standards of professional practice.

4. Licensee shall be responsible for all costs incurred as a result of compliance with this agreement.

5. If any due date required by the Agreement for Corrective Action is not met, the Committee may fine Licensee \$100 per violation. Licensee shall pay the fine and correct the violation within five days after service on Licensee of a demand for payment and correction. If Licensee fails to do so, the Committee may impose additional fines not to exceed \$500 per violation. The total of all fines may not exceed \$5,000. Licensee waives the right to seek review of the imposition of these fines under the Administrative Procedure Act, by *writ of certiorari* under Minn. Stat. § 480A.06, by application to the Board, or otherwise. Neither the imposition of fines nor correction of the violation will deprive the Board of the right to impose additional discipline based on the violation.

6. No condition imposed as a remedy by this Agreement for Corrective Action shall be used as a continuing education activity for the purpose of renewal of Licensee's license to practice psychology.

OTHER INFORMATION

7. Licensee understands that this agreement does not constitute disciplinary action.

8. Upon Licensee's satisfactory completion of the corrective action referenced in paragraph 3, the Committee agrees to dismiss the complaint(s) referenced in paragraph 1. Licensee agrees that the Committee shall be the sole judge of satisfactory completion. Licensee understands and further agrees that if, after dismissal, the Committee receives additional complaints similar to the facts in paragraph 1, the Committee may reopen the dismissed complaint(s).

9. If Licensee fails to complete the corrective action satisfactorily, or if the Committee receives additional complaints similar to the facts described in paragraph 1, the Committee may, at its discretion, reopen the investigation and proceed according to the Board's practice act and Minn. Stat. chs. 214 and 14. In any subsequent proceeding, the Committee may use as proof of the facts of paragraph 1 Licensee's agreements herein. Licensee agrees that failure to complete corrective action satisfactorily constitutes failure to cooperate under Minn. Stat. § 148.941, subd. 4, and may subject Licensee to disciplinary action by the Board.

10. Licensee has been advised by Committee representatives that Licensee may choose to be represented by legal counsel in this matter and has so chosen Jennifer E. Speas, Attorney at Law, Speas Law Firm, P.A. The Committee is represented by Benjamin R. Garbe, Assistant Attorney General.

11. This agreement shall become effective upon execution by the Committee and shall remain in effect until the Committee dismisses the complaint, unless the Committee receives additional information that renders corrective action inappropriate. Upon receipt of such information, the Committee may, at its discretion, proceed according to the Board's practice act and Minn. Stat. chs. 214 and 14.

12. Licensee understands and acknowledges that this agreement and any letter of dismissal are classified as public data.

13. Licensee hereby acknowledges having read and understood this agreement and having voluntarily entered into it. This agreement contains the entire agreement between the Committee and Licensee, there being no other agreement of any kind, verbal or otherwise, which varies the terms of this agreement.

LICENSEE

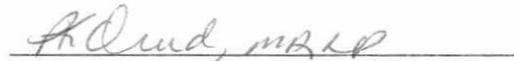

KRISTINE ABRAHAMSON, M.A., L.P.

Dated: 8/22/11

**BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY
COMPLAINT RESOLUTION COMMITTEE**


JEFFREY LEICHTER, PH.D., L.P.
Committee Chair

Dated: September 2, 2011


PATRICIA ORUD, M.A., L.P.
Committee Member

Dated: 9/2/11


SUSAN WARD
Committee Member

Dated: 2 Sept 2011