

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY**

In the Matter of the License of  
Grant Chikazawa-Nelson, Ph.D., LMFT  
Date of Birth: 06/07/1969  
License Number: 943

**STIPULATION AND ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by Grant Chikazawa-Nelson, Ph.D., LMFT ("Licensee"), and the Minnesota Board of Marriage and Family Therapy ("Board") as follows:

1. During all times herein, Licensee has been and now is subject to the jurisdiction of the Board from which he holds a license to practice marriage and family therapy in the State of Minnesota.

**FACTS**

2. For the purpose of this stipulation, the Board may consider the following statements as facts:

a. In approximately 2004, Licensee served as an adjunct professor at a university in St. Paul, Minnesota. Licensee taught courses within the master's program for marriage and family therapy at the university. During this time period, Licensee engaged in a personal and sexual relationship with an adult female student, in her early to middle twenties, who was enrolled in the doctorate program for psychology at the university. Licensee stated that the female student was never directly in any classes taught by Licensee.

b. In July 2010, while in private practice, Licensee began supervising a practicum student ("Supervisee"). In the following weeks after the supervision had begun,

Licensee attempted to initiate a personal relationship with Supervisee. Licensee also made statements about Supervisee's physical appearance in front of clients.

c. In August 2010, Licensee served as a volunteer Mental Health Specialist at an adolescent camp. Licensee's role was to provide social and psychological support to campers and to advise staff members accordingly. It was reported that Licensee used profanity during conversations with staff members and campers. Female staff members reported that, shortly after making Licensee's acquaintance, Licensee shared intimate details of his personal life. One female staff member reported that Licensee asked her if she would be interested in a dating relationship and if she would have a problem with their respective age difference. This female staff member felt uncomfortable with Licensee's advances, especially because Licensee was in a position of authority at the camp. Camp leaders dismissed Licensee from his duties and escorted Licensee from the camp premises.

d. In September 2010, Supervisee inadvertently sent a cell phone text message to Licensee, which was intended for a friend of Supervisee. In responding to the inadvertent text message from Supervisee, Licensee indicated an interest in a personal relationship with Supervisee. Licensee failed to maintain professional boundaries.

e. On October 1, 2010, Licensee conducted an initial therapeutic session with client #1, an adult female. Client #1 sought Licensee's professional services for personal stress and anxiety, due in part to a recent move to Minnesota and the concurrent ending of a long-term relationship. Client #1 had also previously been diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder. During the two-hour session, the following occurred:

1) Licensee spent a significant portion of the session talking about the details of his own personal life, including his marital conflict and medical conditions.

2) Early on, the tone of the session changed from therapeutic to casual conversation. Licensee inquired about the internet dating websites that client #1 was utilizing. At one point, Licensee told client #1 that he didn't know whether he should be "treating you or dating you."

3) Licensee told client #1 that she looked like his ex-wife, and that client #1 was the kind of woman Licensee was looking to begin a relationship with.

4) As the session concluded, Licensee and client #1 agreed that if client #1 wished to continue with a professional relationship with Licensee, that client #1 would contact Licensee. Licensee advised client #1 that he would not affirmatively contact her.

f. The following morning, on October 2, 2010, Licensee sent text messages to client #1's cell phone as follows:

Text #1: *Ok, this is way beyond what I said last night and would truly define our course for our relationship, but I was just offered tickets to the Twins game. If this doesn't feel right, just say so, and we will proceed with what we left with last night. So, Twins game with me: yes or no? Game is at 12:10p grant*

Text #2: *[Client #1].....please say something, I'm feeling bad*

Text #3: *I'm sorry. I've put you in a bad place.*

g. In an email letter dated October 4, 2010, client #1 affirmatively terminated the professional relationship with Licensee because of the violation of professional boundaries.

## REGULATIONS

3. The Board views Licensee's practices as described in paragraph 2 above to be in violation of statutes and rules enforced by the Board and constitutes a reasonable basis in law and fact to justify the disciplinary action provided for in this Stipulation and Order. Licensee agrees that the conduct cited above constitutes the following violations:

- a. Engaging in the practice of marriage and family therapy in a manner harmful or dangerous to a client or to the public, in violation of Minn. Stat. § 148B.37, subd. 1(1);
- b. Engaging in unprofessional and unethical conduct, in violation of the Board's Code of Ethics, pursuant to Minn. R. 5300.0350;
- c. Failing to act in accordance with the highest standards of professional integrity and competence, in violation of Minn. R. 5300.0350, subp. 4;
- d. Failing to recognize the potentially influential position that a therapist may have with respect to students, interns, employees, and supervisees, and failing to make every effort to avoid dual relationships that could impair the therapist's professional judgment or increase the risk of exploitation, in violation of Minn. R. 5300.0350, subp. 4.C.;
- e. Engaging in sexual harassment of students, trainees, interns, employees, or colleagues, in violation of Minn. R. 5300.0350, subp. 4.D.;
- f. Exploiting the professional relationship with a student, trainee, intern, employee, or colleague in any manner for the therapist's emotional, financial, sexual, or personal advantage or benefit, in violation of Minn. R. 5300.0350, subp. 4.E.;

- g. Failing to recognize that there are other resources available to clients and failing to make referrals to those resources when it is in the best interest of clients to be provided with alternative or complementary services, in violation of Minn. R. 5300.0350, subp. 4.F.;
- h. Engaging in unprofessional conduct; the violation of those standards of professional behavior that have become established by consensus of the expert opinion of marriage and family therapists as reasonably necessary for the protection of the public interest, in violation of Minn. R. 5300.0350, subp. 4.S.;
- i. Failing to recognize the potentially influential position the therapist may have with respect to clients, and failing to avoid exploitation of the trust and dependency of clients, in violation of Minn. R. 5300.0350, subp. 5.B.;
- j. Failing to make every effort to avoid dual relationships with clients that could impair the therapist's professional judgment or increase the risk of exploitation, in violation of Minn. R. 5300.0350, subp. 5.B.;
- k. Engaging in sexual harassment of a client, or in any verbal or physical behavior that is sexually seductive or sexually demeaning to the client, in violation of Minn. R. 5300.0350, subp. 5.F.;
- l. Exploiting the professional relationship with a client in any manner for the therapist's emotional, financial, sexual, or personal advantage or benefit, in violation of Minn. R. 5300.0350, subp. 5.G.;
- m. Using the confidence of a client to the client's disadvantage, in violation of Minn. R. 5300.0350, subp. 5.H.;

n. Failing to terminate a client relationship when it is reasonably clear that the treatment no longer serves the client's needs or interests, in violation of Minn. R. 5300.0350, subp. 5.I.;

o. Providing services to a client when the therapist's objectivity or effectiveness was impaired, in violation of Minn. R. 5300.0350, subp. 5.J.; and

#### **REMEDY**

4. Upon this stipulation and without any further notice or proceedings, the Board hereby **SUSPENDS** Licensee's license, effective immediately. During the period of suspension, Licensee shall not practice marriage and family therapy in any manner, shall neither offer nor provide marriage and family therapy services of any kind within Minnesota, and shall not use the designation "licensed marriage and family therapist" "LMFT," or any other designation that implies that Licensee is eligible to practice marriage and family therapy in the State of Minnesota.

Licensee shall be suspended for a period of **three (3) months** from the date of this Order. The suspension shall be administratively removed after the three month period, and Licensee's license shall move into an immediate **CONDITIONAL** status. Licensee shall be allowed to petition for an unconditional license after one year from the date this Stipulation and Order is adopted by the Board. At the time of his petition, the burden of proof shall be upon Licensee to demonstrate by a preponderance of the evidence that he is capable of returning to the practice of marriage and family therapy with an unconditional license in a fit, competent, and ethical manner. During the period of suspension and prior to petitioning for an unconditional license, Licensee shall comply with the conditions set forth in paragraphs 4.a. through 4.h. below:

a. ***Supervision of Licensee by Board-Approved Supervisor.*** At the conclusion of the three month suspension, Licensee shall practice marriage and family therapy only under the supervision of a board-approved supervisor. Licensee may petition for removal of this condition after one year from the date of this Stipulation. Licensee's supervisor must be approved in advance by the Complaint Panel from a list of at least three names Licensee shall submit to the Complaint Panel. Licensee shall cause each proposed supervisor to submit a curriculum vitae to the Board for the Complaint Panel's review prior to its approval of a supervisor.

The Complaint Panel reserves the right to reject all names submitted by Licensee. If the Complaint Panel rejects any names submitted, the Complaint Panel may require that Licensee submit additional names as described above, or the Complaint Panel may provide Licensee with the name of a supervisor. Licensee shall have no previous personal or professional relationship with the supervisor. Licensee shall not engage in the practice of marriage and family therapy until a supervisor has been approved by the Complaint Panel and retained by Licensee. Licensee shall meet with the supervisor no less than twice per month for a minimum of two hours per session. The purpose of the meetings is to address and review issues that shall be contained within the supervisor's reports as follows:

b. ***Supervisor's Reports.*** The supervisor shall provide a report to the Complaint Panel every three months and at the time Licensee petitions to have the supervisory condition removed from his license. The first report is due three months from the date supervision begins, and all subsequent reports shall be submitted on the first day of the month in which they are due. Each report shall provide and/or address:

- 1) In the first report, evidence Licensee's supervisor has received and reviewed a copy of this Stipulation and Order;
- 2) Dates on which supervision took place with Licensee;
- 3) The method by which supervision was conducted;
- 4) A statement that all cases have been reviewed, a description of any problems discovered in the review, and the resolution of the problems;
- 5) The supervisor's opinion as to Licensee's ability to provide competent services;
- 6) Any other information the supervisor believes would assist the Board in its ultimate review of this matter; and
- 7) At the time Licensee petitions for removal of the supervisory condition, the supervisor's report shall include an assessment of Licensee's ability to conduct himself in a fit, competent, and ethical manner in the practice of marriage and family therapy as well as whether Licensee exhibits an acceptable comprehension and knowledge of ethical issues encountered in practice as well as the ability to apply this knowledge.

c. At the time Licensee petitions for removal of the supervisory condition, the burden of proof shall be upon Licensee to demonstrate by a preponderance of the evidence that he is capable of returning to the unsupervised practice of marriage and family therapy in a fit, competent, and ethical manner.

d. ***Professional Boundaries Course.*** Within 60 days of the date this Stipulation and Order is adopted by the Board, Licensee shall arrange to enroll in an individualized professional boundaries training course. The Complaint Panel will provide Licensee with a Board-approved professional. Licensee shall complete the professional

boundaries course within one (1) year of the date this Stipulation and Order is adopted by the Board. All fees for the course shall be paid by Licensee. Successful completion of the boundaries course shall be determined by the Complaint Panel.

1) If the Complaint Panel and Licensee concur that there is sufficient reason for Licensee not to utilize the Board-approved professional, Licensee shall, within 30 days of such concurrence, submit to the Complaint Panel for approval a proposed instructor's curriculum vitae, and a syllabus that includes goals, objectives, assignments, projects, methods, and frequency of evaluation, etc., for an individualized professional boundaries training course with the proposed instructor.

e. ***Report on Boundaries Course From Licensee.*** Within 30 days of completing the professional boundaries course referenced above, Licensee shall submit a report to the Complaint Panel which provides and/or addresses:

- 1) The dates Licensee began and completed the boundaries training course;
- 2) A brief statement of the topics covered in the professional boundaries training course;
- 3) A detailed discussion of what Licensee has learned from the boundaries training course, including Licensee's comprehension and knowledge of boundary issues, as well as various ethical issues encountered in practice, and how this course will affect his practice in the future;
- 4) A detailed discussion of the violations that occurred within the circumstances described in the Facts section of this Stipulation and Order, including:
  - (a) How Licensee came to violate professional boundaries;

(b) The manner in which Licensee violated these boundaries;

(c) The specific harm to each individual that resulted, and the potential harm to other individuals that could have resulted from Licensee's conduct; and

(d) How Licensee now believes the violations could have been averted;

5) A detailed discussion of the specific ways this course may affect Licensee's practice if he is reinstated to unconditional licensure;

6) Licensee's reasons for believing he is capable of conducting himself in a fit, competent, and ethical manner in the practice of marriage and family therapy; and

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

f. ***Report on Boundaries Course From Instructor.*** Within 60 days of completing the professional boundaries course referenced above, Licensee shall cause to be submitted to the Complaint Panel a report from the instructor of the professional boundaries course. This report shall address:

1) The extent of Licensee's participation in the course; and

2) The instructor's assessment of Licensee's knowledge obtained from the course, comprehension of the material issues, and opinion as to Licensee's ethical fitness to engage in the practice of marriage and family therapy.

g. ***Psychological Evaluation.*** Licensee shall obtain a psychological evaluation within 60 days of the date this Stipulation and Order is adopted by the Board. The evaluation shall be performed by a licensed psychologist who has been approved in advance by

the Complaint Panel. Licensee is responsible for the cost of the evaluation. The results of the evaluation shall be sent directly to the Board office and shall meet the following requirements:

- 1) Verification the evaluator has received a copy of this Stipulation and Order and any information that may be submitted by the Board;
- 2) A summary of the results of the evaluation and recommendations for treatment/therapy; and
- 3) Any other information the evaluator believes would assist the Board in its ultimate review of this matter.

h. ***Treating Therapist's Reports.*** Licensee shall receive therapeutic services if recommended by the psychological evaluator. The Complaint Panel has preapproved Lynne Silva-Breen, MA, LMFT, for purposes of this paragraph. Licensee shall comply with any recommendations for treatment by the therapist and shall be responsible for the cost of treatment. The therapist shall submit a report to the Complaint Panel at the time Licensee petitions for an unconditional license. The report shall provide and/or address:

- 1) A statement that the therapist has received and reviewed a copy of this Stipulation and Order;
- 2) An identification of a treatment plan devised specifically for Licensee. Any subsequent changes made in the treatment plan shall be identified in later reports;
- 3) A statement of the involvement between Licensee and the therapist, including dates, number, and frequency of meetings;
- 4) Licensee's therapeutic progress and compliance with the treatment plan;

5) The therapist's opinion as to Licensee's capacity to understand his professional role, the boundaries of that role, and his ability to distinguish between his personal and professional needs, identity, and behavior;

6) The therapist's opinion as to the need for continuing therapy;

7) Any other information the therapist believes would assist the Board in its ultimate review of this matter; and

8) An assessment of Licensee's ability to conduct himself in a fit, competent, and ethical manner in the practice of marriage and family therapy, and whether Licensee exhibits an acceptable comprehension and knowledge of ethical issues encountered in practice as well as the ability to apply this knowledge.

5. If any due date required by this Stipulation and Order is not met, the Complaint Panel may fine Licensee \$100.00 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 Complaint Panel may impose additional fines not to exceed \$500.00 per violation. The total of all fines may not exceed \$5,000.00. 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. Licensee is responsible for all costs incurred as a result of compliance with this Stipulation and Order.

7. No condition imposed as a remedy by this Stipulation and Order, including conditions directly related to a restriction, shall be used as a continuing education activity for the purpose of renewal of Licensee's license to practice marriage and family therapy.
8. All reports referenced herein shall cover the entire reporting period and provide the bases upon which conclusions were drawn.
9. The Board or its authorized representatives shall have the right to discuss relevant issues and obtain records from any person with whom Licensee has contact as a result of his compliance with this Stipulation and Order or as a result of him being examined or obtaining treatment, counseling, or other assistance on his own initiative or otherwise. Licensee shall execute releases and provide any health record or other waivers necessary for submission of the reports referenced in this Stipulation and Order, to enable the Board to obtain the information it desires, and to authorize the testimony of those contacted by the Board in any proceeding related to this matter.
10. Licensee shall execute releases allowing the Board to exchange data related to this Stipulation and Order with Licensee's therapist and any other professional Licensee contacts in order to comply with this Order.
11. In the event Licensee resides or practices outside the State of Minnesota, Licensee shall promptly notify the Board in writing of the location of his residence and all work sites. Practice outside of Minnesota will not be credited toward any period of Licensee's conditioned license in Minnesota unless Licensee demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Board that the practice in another jurisdiction conforms completely with Licensee's Minnesota licensure requirements to practice marriage and family therapy.

12. If Licensee shall fail, neglect, or refuse to fully comply with each of the terms, provisions, and conditions herein, the Complaint Panel shall schedule a hearing before the Board. The Complaint Panel shall mail Licensee a notice of the violation alleged by the Complaint Panel and of the time and place of the hearing. Licensee shall submit a response to the allegations at least three days prior to the hearing. If Licensee does not submit a timely response to the Board, the allegations may be deemed admitted.

At the hearing before the Board, the Complaint Panel and Licensee may submit affidavits made on personal knowledge and argument based on the record in support of their positions. The evidentiary record before the Board shall be limited to such affidavits and this Stipulation and Order. Licensee waives a hearing before an administrative law judge and waives discovery, cross-examination of adverse witnesses, and other procedures governing administrative hearings or civil trials.

At the hearing, the Board will determine whether to impose additional disciplinary action, including suspension or revocation of Licensee's license.

13. This stipulation shall not in any way limit or affect the authority of the Board to temporarily suspend Licensee's license under Minn. Stat. § 148.941, subd. 3, or to initiate contested case proceedings against Licensee on the basis of any act, conduct, or omission of Licensee justifying disciplinary action occurring before or after the date of this Stipulation and Order which is not related to the facts, circumstances or requirements referenced herein.

14. In the event the Board at its discretion does not approve this settlement or a lesser remedy than indicated in this settlement, then, and in that event, this stipulation is withdrawn and shall be of no evidentiary value and shall not be relied upon nor introduced by either party to this stipulation, except that Licensee agrees that should the Board reject this stipulation and this case

proceeds to hearing, Licensee will assert no claim that the Board was prejudiced by its review and discussion of this stipulation or of any records relating to this matter.

15. Any appropriate court may, upon application of the Board, enter its decree enforcing the order of the Board.

16. Licensee has been advised by Board representatives that he may choose to be represented by legal counsel in this matter. Licensee is represented by Peter G. Van Bergen, Esquire. The Complaint Panel is represented by Benjamin R. Garbe, Assistant Attorney General.

17. Licensee waives all formal hearings on this matter and all other procedures before the Board to which Licensee may be entitled under the Minnesota or United States constitutions, statutes, or rules and agrees that the order to be entered pursuant to the stipulation shall be the final order herein.

18. Licensee hereby knowingly and voluntarily waives any and all claims against the Board, the Minnesota Attorney General, the State of Minnesota and their agents, employees and representatives which may otherwise be available to Licensee under the Americans With Disabilities Act or the Minnesota Human Rights Act relative to the action taken or authorized against Licensee's license to practice marriage and family therapy under this stipulation.

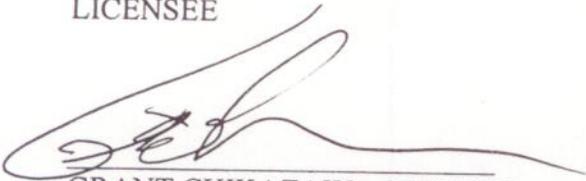
19. Licensee hereby acknowledges that he has read, understands, and agrees to this stipulation and has freely and voluntarily signed the stipulation without threat or promise by the Board or any of its members, employees, or agents. When signing the stipulation, Licensee acknowledges he is fully aware the stipulation is not binding unless and until it is approved by the Board. The Board may either approve the Stipulation and Order as proposed, approve the Stipulation and Order subject to specified change, or reject it. If the changes are acceptable to Licensee, the stipulation will then take effect and the order as modified will be issued. If the

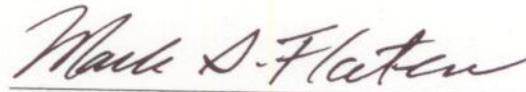
changes are unacceptable to Licensee or the Board rejects the stipulation, it will be of no effect except as specified herein.

- 20. This Stipulation and Order constitutes a disciplinary action against Licensee.
- 21. This Stipulation and Order is a public document and will be sent to all appropriate data banks.
- 22. This stipulation contains the entire agreement between the parties there being no other agreement of any kind, verbal or otherwise, which varies this stipulation.

LICENSEE

FOR THE COMPLAINT PANEL

  
GRANT CHIKAZAWA-NELSON  
Ph.D., LMFT

  
MARK FLATEN  
M.S., LMFT  
Complaint Panel Chair

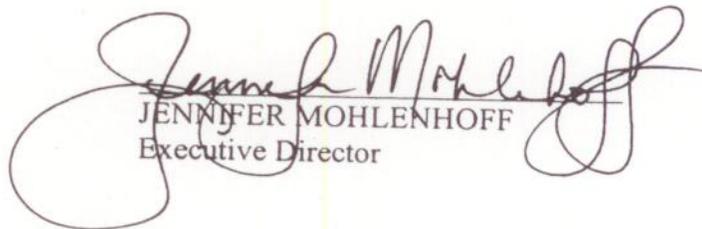
Dated: 03/07/2012

Dated: 3/14/12

**ORDER**

Upon consideration of this stipulation and all of the files, records and proceedings herein,  
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the terms of this stipulation are adopted and  
implemented by the board this 16 day of March, 2012.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF  
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

  
JENNIFER MOHLENHOFF  
Executive Director