

**BEFORE THE MINNESOTA
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY**

In the Matter of
Ronald L. Odden, M.S., L.P.
License Number: LP0303

**STIPULATION AND
CONSENT ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by Ronald L. Odden, M.S., L.P., (“Licensee”), and the Minnesota Board of Psychology (“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 psychology in the State of Minnesota.

FACTS

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

a. Between May 2006 and March 2008, Licensee provided psychological services to client #1 for chronic depression.

b. During the course of the professional relationship, client #1 continuously pursued a romantic relationship with Licensee. Client #1 sent Licensee sexually suggestive messages through electronic mail. Although Licensee verbally directed client #1 to maintain appropriate boundaries, Licensee failed to document client #1’s inappropriate conduct or document any remedial measures that Licensee may have attempted.

c. Licensee acknowledged that his professional effectiveness had been compromised by client #1’s attempts to establish a romantic relationship with Licensee. However, upon the realization that his effectiveness was compromised, Licensee failed to

terminate the professional relationship and assist client #1 in obtaining services from another professional.

d. In November 2003, Licensee began providing psychological services to client #2 for severe depression and suicidal tendencies.

e. During the course of the professional relationship, client #2 sent Licensee sexually suggestive messages through electronic mail. Although Licensee verbally directed client #2 to maintain appropriate boundaries, Licensee failed to document client #2's inappropriate conduct or document any remedial measures that Licensee may have attempted.

f. Licensee acknowledged that the professional relationship with client #2 evolved into a personal friendship. In 2007, Licensee and client #2 began spending time together outside of the therapeutic sessions.

g. Licensee acknowledged a dual relationship with client #2 and that his professional effectiveness and objectivity had been impaired as a result. Although aware that his effectiveness and objectivity were impaired, Licensee failed to terminate the professional relationship and assist client #2 in obtaining services from another professional.

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. Licensee agrees that the conduct cited above constitutes a violation of Minn. Stat. § 148.98 (code of conduct); Minn. Stat. § 148.941, subd. 2(a)(1) (violated statute or rule Board is empowered to enforce); Minn. Stat. § 148.941, subd. 2(a)(3), and Minn. R. 7200.5700 (unprofessional conduct); Minn. R. 7200.4600, subp. 4 (failure to refer client); Minn. R. 7200.4810, subp. 1 (providing services when objectivity and effectiveness impaired); Minn. R. 7200.4810, subp. 2.A. (dual relationship); Minn.

R. 7200.4810, subp. 2.E. (exploitation); Minn. R. 7200.4810, subp. 3 (failure to terminate and refer client); and constitutes a reasonable basis in law and fact to justify the disciplinary action provided for in the order.

REMEDY

4. Upon this stipulation and all the files, records, and proceedings herein, and without further notice or hearing herein, Licensee does hereby consent that until further order of the Board, made after notice and hearing upon application by Licensee or upon the Board's own motion, the Board may make and enter an order as follows:

a. ***Boundaries Course.*** Within 30 days of the date this Stipulation and Consent Order is adopted by the Board, Licensee shall arrange to enroll in an individualized professional boundaries training course. The Committee will provide Licensee with a list of such courses, which have been approved, for the purposes of satisfying this requirement. If the Committee and Licensee concur that there is sufficient reason for Licensee not to enroll in any of the courses the Committee has listed, Licensee shall, within 30 days of the date this Stipulation and Consent Order is adopted by the Board, submit to the Committee for approval a syllabus that includes goals, objectives, assignments, projects, methods, and frequency of evaluation, etc., for a similar individualized professional boundaries training course. Licensee shall also submit the course instructor's vitae to the Committee for its approval of the instructor. The instructor shall be either a licensed psychologist or have a doctoral degree in psychology. Licensee shall complete the course within twelve (12) months of the date this Stipulation and Consent 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 Committee.

b. ***Report on Boundaries Course From Licensee.*** Within 30 days of completing the professional boundaries course referenced above, Licensee shall submit a report to the Committee which provides and 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;

4) A detailed discussion of each boundary violation that occurred regarding the circumstances described in the Facts section of this Stipulation and Consent Order, including:

(a) How Licensee came to violate these boundaries;

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

(c) The specific harm to specific individuals that resulted or could have resulted from the boundary violations;

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

5) A detailed discussion of the specific ways this course will affect Licensee's practice in the future;

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

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

c. **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 Committee 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 and opinion as to Licensee's recognition of boundary issues and Licensee's ethical fitness to engage in the practice of psychology.

d. **Civil Penalty.** Licensee shall pay a civil penalty to the Board in the amount of one thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars for engaging in the conduct and violations described in paragraphs 2 and 3 above. Payment of \$1,000.00 shall be remitted in full to the Minnesota Board of Psychology at Suite 320, 2829 University Avenue SE, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414, within sixty (60) days of the date this Stipulation and Consent Order is adopted by the Board.

5. If any due date required by this Stipulation and Consent Order 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 \$500.00 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 Consent Order.

7. No condition imposed as a remedy by this Stipulation and Consent Order shall be used as a continuing education activity for the purpose of renewal of Licensee's license to practice psychology.

8. If Licensee shall fail, neglect, or refuse to fully comply with each of the terms, provisions, and conditions herein, the Committee shall schedule a hearing before the Board. The Committee shall mail Licensee a notice of the violation alleged by the Committee 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 Committee 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 Consent 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 additional conditions or limitations on Licensee's practice, or suspension, or revocation of Licensee's license.

9. 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 Consent Order which is not related to the facts, circumstances or requirements referenced herein.

10. 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.

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

12. Licensee has been advised by Board representatives that he may choose to be represented by legal counsel in this matter. Licensee is represented by John T. Goff, Esq. The Committee is represented by Benjamin R. Garbe, Assistant Attorney General.

13. 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.

14. 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 psychology under this stipulation.

15. 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 Consent Order as proposed, approve the Stipulation and Consent 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.

16. This Stipulation and Consent Order constitutes a disciplinary action against Licensee.

17. This Stipulation and Consent Order is a public document and will be sent to all appropriate data banks.

18. This stipulation contains the entire agreement between the parties there being no other agreement of any kind, verbal or otherwise, which varies this stipulation.

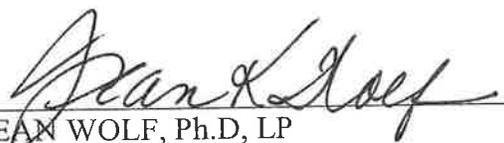
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY

COMPLAINT RESOLUTION
COMMITTEE



RONALD ODDEN, MS, LP
Licensee

Dated: 5-4-11

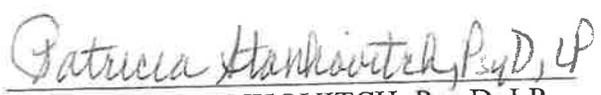


JEAN WOLF, Ph.D, LP
Committee Chair

Dated: 5/13/11


CHRIS BONNELL, JD
Committee Member

Dated: 5/13/11


PATRICIA STANKOVITCH, Psy.D, LP
Committee Member

Dated: 5/13/11

ORDER

Upon consideration of this stipulation and all the files, records, and proceedings herein,
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that all terms of this stipulation are adopted and
implemented by the Board this 13th day of May 2011.

MINNESOTA BOARD
OF PSYCHOLOGY


ANGELINA M. BARNES
Executive Director