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FILED WITH THE BOARD OF
PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS
ON 10-4-99

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS
DOCKET NO.

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION) OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF) LIANE STEELE, Psy.D.) TO PRACTICE PSYCHOLOGY IN THE) STATE OF NEW JERSEY) 	Administrative Action CONSENT ORDER
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This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Psychological Examiners ("Board") upon receipt of a complaint concerning the personal relationship between Liane Steele, Psy.D., and a patient. The Board reviewed the record in this matter including information acquired at an investigative inquiry attended by Dr. Steele and her counsel, Pamela Mandel, Esq., on June 30, 1999. It appears that on or about July 9, 1998, Dr. Steele first met with the patient for a therapy session. Dr. Steele terminated the therapeutic relationship on or about August 4, 1998; in part because she determined that the patient's professional responsibility for her grandmother at a nursing home could reasonably limit her objectivity or impair her professional judgment. It further appears that Dr. Steele entered into a

relationship with the patient, the conduct of which may constitute a violation of the Board's conflict of interest rule at N.J.A.C. 13:42-10.13(b).

The respondent being desirous of resolving this matter without resort to formal proceedings, and the Board having determined that the following provisions are adequately protective of the public interest and welfare, and for good cause shown,

IT IS ON THIS ^{4th} DAY OF ^{October} ~~SEPTEMBER~~, 1999,

HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. The license of respondent Liane Steele, Psy.D., to practice psychology in the State of New Jersey is hereby suspended for a period of two (2) years. The first six (6) months of the suspension shall be active and the remaining one and a half (1 1/2) years of the suspension shall be stayed and served as a period of probation. The effective date of the active period of suspension shall commence retroactively to May 27, 1999. During the period of time in which respondent's license is actively suspended, she shall comply in every regard with the "Directive Regarding Future Activities of Board Licensee Who Has Been Suspended/Revoked and Use of the Professional Premises," a copy of which is attached to this Order and made a part hereof as if set forth in its entirety.

2. Respondent shall be assessed a civil penalty in the amount of \$1,000.00. The aforesaid penalty shall be submitted to the Board by certified check or money order made payable to the State of New Jersey in four (4) installments of \$250.00 each. The first installment shall be due no later than the first day of the

month in which Dr. Steele's license is reinstated after the six (6) months of active suspension. The three (3) remaining installments shall be due no later than the first day of each succeeding month thereafter. Any failure to make an installment payment when due shall cause the entire remaining balance to become immediately due and payable.

3. Respondent shall be assessed the costs to the State in this matter in the amount of \$125.00. The total costs shall be due and payable no later than the first day of the month following the entry date of the within Order and shall be submitted to the Board by certified check or money order made payable to the State of New Jersey.

4. No later than two (2) months prior to the termination of the active period of suspension and before engaging in any professional practice, Dr. Steele shall submit to a comprehensive psychological evaluation with a Board approved psychologist. The respondent may submit to the Board names of proposed psychologists to perform this evaluation (with copies of their curriculum vitae) for the Board's approval. The respondent shall certify to the Board that she has no professional or other relationship with the proposed psychologist. In the event the respondent is unable to obtain a psychologist to perform the evaluation, she may request that the Board appoint a psychologist for this purpose. The referral for the evaluation shall be made by the Board, and Dr. Steele shall be responsible for the costs of the evaluation and the written report to be submitted to the Board. If

the evaluation recommends any rehabilitative activity such as therapy or limitation on practice beyond that provided for herein, Dr. Steele shall engage in such recommended activity and comply with such limitations as approved by the Board. All costs associated with any requirements imposed by the Board for the resumption of active practice of licensure shall be borne by Dr. Steele.

In the event the respondent elects not to resume the practice of psychology at the end of the six (6) month period of active suspension, she may postpone the psychological evaluation until two (2) months prior to her planned return to active practice. This requirement shall continue beyond the period of probation to any point in time in the future when Dr. Steele advises the Board that she intends to resume the active practice of psychology in this State. However, in the event more than four (4) months elapse subsequent to the psychological evaluation and respondent fails to resume active practice, the Board shall retain the discretion to cause Dr. Steele to submit to an updated evaluation prior to resumption of active practice.

5. The respondent's authority to practice psychology during the one and a half (1 1/2) years of probation following the six (6) month period of active suspension shall be expressly contingent upon strict compliance with the following terms and conditions:

- (a) Respondent shall practice psychology only under the supervision of a New Jersey licensed psychologist

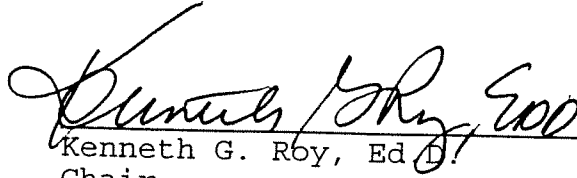
approved by the Board. The respondent shall submit to the Board names of proposed supervisors, (with copies of their curriculum vitae), and respondent shall not commence the practice of psychology until she has received written approval from the Board of one of the proposed supervisors. In the event the respondent is unable to obtain a supervisor, she may request that the Board make recommendations for an approved supervisor. Respondent shall be required to obtain one (1) hour of supervision for every ten (10) patient hours or any fraction thereof with a minimum of one (1) hour of supervision each month regardless of whether ten (10) patient hours were performed during that month. Said supervision shall continue for the entire period of probation. The respondent shall cause her approved supervisor to submit monthly reports to the Board during the first six (6) months of supervision commencing the first day of the month following the written approval of the supervisor by the Board. The supervisor's report shall provide an informed evaluation of the respondent's patient treatment and professional practice. After the expiration of the first six (6) months of the supervised period, the supervisor shall provide quarterly reports to the Board concerning the supervision of respondent's professional practices. In the event the respondent elects not to resume the active practice of psychology at

the end of the six (6) month period of active suspension, the Board shall retain the discretion to impose the supervision as described herein at any point in time in the future when Dr. Steele advises the Board that she intends to resume the active practice of psychology in this State.

(b) Dr. Steele shall continue in individual therapy during the period of probation. Dr. Steele shall cause her therapist to submit to the Board quarterly reports providing the dates of attendance in therapy and a statement that Dr. Steele is satisfactorily participating in the therapy process. In the event the therapist recommends the termination of therapy, a report to that effect shall be submitted to the Board, and Dr. Steele shall not terminate therapy until written approval has been received from the Board.

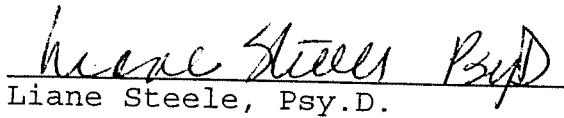
6. It is expressly understood and agreed that continued licensure with restrictions as ordered herein is contingent upon strict compliance with all of the aforementioned conditions. Upon the Board's receipt of any information indicating that any term of the within Order has been violated in any manner whatsoever, a hearing shall be held on short notice before the Board or before its representative authorized to act on its behalf. The proofs at such a hearing shall be limited to evidence of the particular violation at issue and, if sustained, may cause the activation of the remaining period of probation or other appropriate penalty.

7. The respondent may apply for modification of the terms and conditions of the within Order no sooner than one (1) year from the entry date herein.

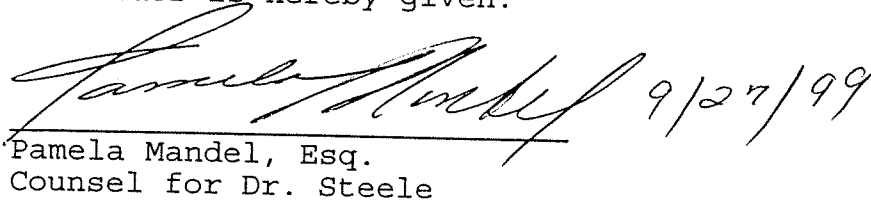


Kenneth G. Roy, Ed.D.
Chair
State Board of Psychological Examiners

I have read and understand the within Order and agree to be bound by its terms. Consent is hereby given to the Board to enter this Order.


Liane Steele, Psy.D.

Consent as to the form of the Order is hereby given.


Pamela Mandel, Esq.
Counsel for Dr. Steele

DIRECTIVE REGARDING FUTURE ACTIVITIES
OF BOARD LICENSEE WHO HAS BEEN SUSPENDED/
REVOKED AND USE OF THE PROFESSIONAL PREMISES

A practitioner whose license is suspended or revoked or whose surrender of license with or without prejudice has been accepted by the Board shall conduct him/herself as follows.

- 1) Promptly deliver to the Board the original license and current biennial registration.
- 2) Desist and refrain from the practice of psychology in any form either as principal or as employer or as employee or agent of another licensee or other health care provider.
- 3) Inform each patient at the time of any inquiry of the suspended or revoked status of the licensee. When a new licensee is selected by a patient, the disciplined practitioner shall promptly make available the original or a complete copy of the existing patient record to the new licensee. If no new licensee is selected, the record shall be made available to the patient. Such delivery of record does not waive any right of the disciplined practitioner to claim compensation earned for prior services lawfully rendered.
- 4) Not occupy, share or use office space in which another licensee practices psychology.
- 5) Desist and refrain from furnishing professional psychological services, giving an opinion as to the practice of psychology or its application or any advice with relation thereto; from holding him/herself out to the public as being entitled to practice psychology or in any way assuming to be a practicing professional such as a counselor, psychotherapist, psychoanalyst, therapist or other mental health care worker; or from advertising or writing in such a manner as to convey to the public the impression that such person is a legal practitioner or authorized to practice psychology. This prohibition includes refraining during the period of suspension or revocation from placement of any advertisement or professional listing in any advertising medium suggesting eligibility for practice or good standing. This prohibition further shall include the preparation of any report or appearance before any court or tribunal as an expert witness unless the case involves a matter handled prior to being disciplined and unless the status of the licensee is disclosed in writing to the person requesting such report or appearance.
- 6) Cease to use any stationery whereon such person's name appears as a psychologist in practice.
- 7) Not share in any fee for psychological services performed by any other licensee following the suspension, revocation or surrender of license, but the practitioner may be compensated for the reasonable value of the services lawfully rendered and

disbursements incurred on the patient's behalf prior to the effective date of the suspension, revocation or surrender.

8) Use of the professional premises. The disciplined licensee may allow another licensee to use the office premises formerly occupied by the disciplined licensee on the following conditions only:

(a) The new licensee shall conduct the practice in every respect as his/her own practice including billings, claim forms, insurance provider numbers, telephone numbers, etc.

(b) The disciplined licensee may accept no portion of the fees for professional services rendered by the new licensee, whether by percentage of revenue, per capita patient, or by any other device or design, however denominated. The disciplined licensee may, however, contract for or accept payment from the new licensee for rent (not exceeding fair market value) of the premises and either dispose of or store any materials and equipment.

(c) No continued use of name of disciplined licensee or personally owned office name or tax or provider identification number.

1. Where the disciplined licensee was using an individual IRS number or where the licensee was the sole member of an incorporated professional association or a corporation, the disciplined licensee may contract to rent the office premises to a new practitioner. The new practitioner may use his/her own name and own provider number on all bills and insurance claim forms. Neither the name nor the number of the disciplined licensee may be used. When the license of a sole practitioner has been revoked, a trade name must be cancelled and a professional service corporation must be dissolved.

2. Where the disciplined licensee is a member of a professional group which uses a group-type name such as the ABC Psychological Group, the disciplined licensee must arrange to have his/her name deleted, covered up or otherwise obliterated on all office signs, advertisements published by the group after the effective date of the Board disciplinary order and on all printed billings and stationery. The other group members may continue to function under the incorporated or trade name, minus the name of the disciplined licensee, and may continue to use its corporate or professional identification number.

(9) Report promptly to the Board compliance with each directive of the order requiring moneys to be reimbursed to patients or to

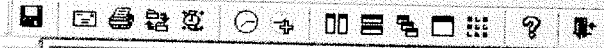
other persons or third party payors, and regarding supervisory reports or other special conditions of the order.

(10) A practitioner whose license is surrendered, revoked or actively suspended for one year or more shall conduct him/herself as follows:

a) Promptly require the publishers of any professional directory and any other professional list in which such licensee's name is known by the disciplined licensee to appear to remove any such listing.

b) Promptly require any and all telephone companies to remove the practitioner's listing in any telephone directory indicating that such practitioner is a practicing professional.

(11) A practitioner whose practice privileges are affected by a Board disciplinary order shall, within 90 days after the effective date of the Board order, file with the Executive Director of the Board a detailed affidavit specifying by correlatively lettered and numbered paragraphs how such person has fully complied with this directive. The affidavit shall also set forth the residence or other address and telephone number to which communications may be directed to such person. Any change in the residence, address or telephone number shall be promptly reported to the Executive Director.



Compliance For Liane S Steele

Violations | Actions | Citation | Monetary Penalties | Restitution | Limits | Monitoring

From: Board Violation: (none)

Complaint #	Docket #	Cause #	State	Start	End	Action
Practicing Psychologist license #35S100288300:						
970				10/04/1999	11/04/1999	Cost
970			NJ	05/27/1999	11/27/1999	Suspension-actr
970			NJ	11/28/1999	05/27/2001	Suspension-sta
970			NJ	12/27/1999	04/27/2000	Fine/Penalty-sta

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