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FILED BY THE BOARD OF
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

September 21, 2017
J. Michael Haller

By: Jodi C. Krugman
Deputy Attorney General
(973) 648-7093

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF:

CHEONG PARK, LSW
License No. 44SL06010300

TO PRACTICE AS A SOCIAL WORKER
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Administrative Action

**INTERIM CONSENT ORDER
OF VOLUNTARY SURRENDER
OF LICENSE**

This matter was opened to the New Jersey Board of Social Work Examiners ("Board") upon receipt of a complaint from CR alleging that Cheong Park, LSW ("respondent") had engaged in boundary violations and sexual misconduct by inappropriately touching a client, MT, during therapy sessions. CR, respondent's clinical supervisor, stated that respondent contacted him because he felt he may have offended MT. Respondent told CR that he engaged in some physical contact with the client on multiple occasions, including hugging, and massage of her face and neck as well as her trapezius and upper chest muscles. Respondent reportedly confessed to

having told the client he was attracted to her, but claimed he was “in a panic” at the time. CR stated that respondent claimed to be performing “Exposure Therapy”; however, CR told respondent he was neither trained nor experienced to provide exposure therapy and should not be engaging in any physical contact with his clients aside from a brief handshake.

CR, respondent’s clinical supervisor, stated that he spoke with client MT. She confirmed that respondent had hugged her and massaged her neck and shoulders on multiple occasions, telling her that it was “relaxation therapy”. However, after a conversation where she shared that she had difficulty setting boundaries, respondent proceeded to massage MT’s chest and grab her breasts inside her bra. Respondent allegedly told MT that he was attracted to her, and later texted MT to tell her that she did nothing wrong and that he had lost control.

On August 31, 2017, the Board received a flagging notice indicating that respondent had been arrested by the Jersey City Police Department and charged with one count of conspiracy, criminal sexual contact, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:5-2.

The Board finds that the allegations, if proven, would demonstrate that the respondent engaged in boundary violations and sexual misconduct in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and N.J.A.C. 13:44G-10.7, and engaged in acts constituting crimes relating adversely to the practice of social work and clinical social work, which provides grounds to take disciplinary action against respondent’s license to practice clinical social work in the State of New Jersey, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(f) and (h).

The parties desiring to resolve this matter without recourse to formal proceedings, and respondent waiving his right to a hearing in this matter, and the Board finding that entry of this Order adequately protects the public health, safety, and welfare, and for good cause shown;

IT IS on this 21st day of September 2017,

ORDERED AND AGREED that:

1. Respondent is hereby granted leave and shall immediately surrender his license to practice social work in the State of New Jersey, such surrender to be deemed a temporary suspension of his license, pending disposition of the criminal charges and further Order of the Board.

2. Respondent shall cease and desist from advertising, offering to engage in or engaging in the practice of clinical social work, social work, alcohol and drug counseling, mental health therapy and/or counseling, or the provision of social work services as defined in N.J.S.A. 45:15BB-3 in any setting, including exempt settings as defined by N.J.S.A. 45:15BB-5. This bar to providing mental health services includes but is not limited to uncompensated or volunteer practice, life coaching, internet counseling and/or non-profit or other exempt settings.

3. Respondent shall surrender his original wall certificate, wallet certificate, and the most recent renewal card of his license to the Executive Director of the Board of Social Work Examiners by mailing them to J. Michael Walker, Executive Director, Board of Social Work Examiners, P.O. Box 45033, Newark, New Jersey 07101, contemporaneously with his signing of this Order.

4. This Order shall not preclude the Board from initiating disciplinary action based upon the conduct relating to respondent as alleged above or any conviction relating to such conduct. The entry of the within Order is without prejudice to the further investigation and/or prosecution of any violations by respondent of any statutes or regulations governing the practice of social work or any mental health profession in this state or any other violations of the law, by the Board, the Attorney General, or any other regulatory or law enforcement agency, including but not limited to any matters under pending investigation.

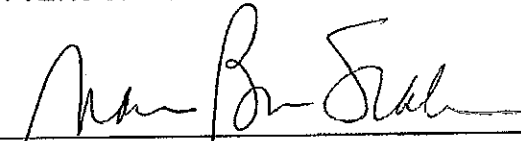
5. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed an admission of liability on the part of the respondent.

6. Prior to any application for reinstatement of his license as a social worker, respondent shall provide the Board with an in-depth, current psychological evaluation from a psychologist pre-approved by the Board who has not previously treated respondent. Respondent shall ensure that prior to the evaluation, the psychologist shall be provided with materials from the Board that explain the conduct underlying this Order and the reasons for the evaluation. The evaluation shall address, among other things, respondent's conduct underlying this Order and the likelihood he will repeat his behavior, as well as recommendations, if any, for continuing treatment or limitations on his practice. This evaluation must be provided directly to the Board by the evaluator and be received prior to consideration of any application for reinstatement, and all costs of the evaluation shall be borne by respondent. Respondent agrees to comply with any treatment recommendations, and expressly waives any claim to

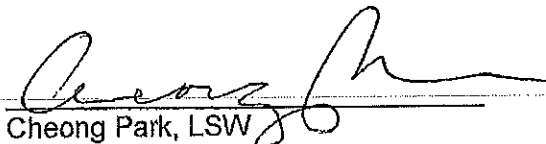
privilege or confidentiality that he may have concerning reports and disclosures to the Board, and use by the Board of that information in any license proceedings.

7. Any practice in this State in violation of the above conditions shall constitute unlicensed practice and/or grounds for discipline for violation of an Order of the Board as well as professional misconduct.

NEW JERSEY BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

By: 
Maureen Braun Scalera, LCSW
Board Chair

I have read and understand this Consent Order and agree to be bound by its terms. I consent to the entry of this Order. I understand that this Order has serious professional and legal import, and I have decided to enter into this agreement without legal counsel.


Cheong Park, LSW

Date: 9/14/17