

GURBIR S. GREWAL
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY
Division of Law
124 Halsey Street, 5th Floor
P.O. Box 45029
Newark New Jersey 07101

By: Nisha S. Lakhani
Deputy Attorney General
(973) 648-7454
Attorney ID: 007512012

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF MASSAGE AND BODYWORK THERAPY

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION :
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF : Administrative Action
:
STEVEN A. SEGOVIA, L.M.T. : COMPLAINT
LICENSE NO. 18KT00640600 :
:
TO PRACTICE MASSAGE AND :
BODYWORK THERAPY :
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY :
:

Gurbir S. Grewal, Attorney General of New Jersey, by Nisha S. Lakhani, Deputy Attorney General, with offices located at 124 Halsey Street, 5th Floor, Newark, New Jersey, by way of Verified Complaint, says:

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

1. Complainant, the Attorney General of New Jersey, is charged with the responsibility of enforcing the laws of the

State of New Jersey pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:17A-4(h), and is empowered to initiate administrative disciplinary proceedings against persons licensed by the New Jersey State Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy (hereinafter the "Board") pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-14 et seq.

2. The Board is charged with the duty and responsibility of regulating the practice of massage and bodywork therapy in the State of New Jersey pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:11-53 et seq.

3. Steven A. Segovia (hereinafter "Respondent") is licensed to practice massage and bodywork therapy in the State of New Jersey, and holds license number 18KT00640600. Respondent was last employed as a massage and bodywork therapist at Massage Envy located at 57 Village Center Drive in Freehold, New Jersey.

4. Respondent is also licensed to practice physical therapy in the State of New Jersey, and holds license number 40QB00339200. Respondent is currently employed as a physical therapist assistant at Sunnyside Manor located at 2500 Ridgewood Road in Wall, New Jersey.

5. Pursuant to Board policy, client initials are being used throughout this Complaint to preserve confidentiality. The identities of the clients are known to Respondent.

COUNT I

6. Complainant repeats and realleges the General Allegations above as if fully set forth herein.

7. M.K. is a fifty-two (52) year old female massage therapy client who underwent deep tissue massages by Respondent in or about October 2013 at Massage Envy in Manalapan, New Jersey.

8. During M.K.'s first deep tissue massage, Respondent began to massage her gluteal muscles and then put a finger into her vagina. When asked what he was doing, Respondent stated, "I'm sorry, I misread you. I'll never do it again!"

9. M.K. returned to Respondent for subsequent massage therapy sessions and felt him getting closer to her genitalia.

10. On or about October 16, 2013, M.K. went to a massage therapy session with Respondent. At the end of this therapy session, Respondent performed oral sex on M.K.

11. Respondent admitted to giving M.K. a massage, having sexual contact with her at a Massage Envy location, and performing oral sex on her.

12. The actions of Respondent described herein constitute gross negligence which damages or endangered the life, health, welfare, safety, of any person in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(c), repeated acts of negligence in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(d), professional misconduct in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e); and, a violation or failure to comply with the provisions of any act or regulation administered by the Board in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h), specifically engaging in

sexual contact in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37A-3.5(c), (e), (h), (i), and (k).

COUNT II

14. Complainant repeats and realleges the General Allegations and those of Count I above as if fully set forth herein.

15. M.S. is a fifty-two (52) year old female massage therapy client who underwent eight (8) separate deep tissue massages throughout 2013 by Respondent at Massage Envy in Freehold, New Jersey.

16. M.S. underwent massages by Respondent at Massage Envy on March 10, 2013, March 13, 2013, March 27, 2013, April 17, 2013, May 22, 2013, June 19, 2013, July 7, 2013, and September 10, 2013. At the end of each session, Respondent made sure that M.S. rescheduled her next appointment with him.

17. As M.S.'s massage therapy sessions progressed, Respondent began asking personal questions, specifically inquiring if M.S. had a boyfriend.

18. Respondent also informed M.S. that she could receive a massage from him in his home and pay him privately.

19. M.S. went to her last massage therapy session with Respondent on September 10, 2013.

20. During the September 10, 2013 session, while M.S. was lying on her stomach, Respondent massaged her buttocks area and

used his fingers to slide her underwear to one side. Respondent then penetrated M.S.'s vagina from behind with his penis. When Respondent was finished, he leaned over and whispered into M.S.'s ear, "This will be our little secret, Ok?"

21. The actions of Respondent described herein constitute gross negligence which damages or endangered the life, health, welfare, safety, of any person in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(c), repeated acts of negligence in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(d), professional misconduct in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e); and, a violation or failure to comply with the provisions of any act or regulation administered by the Board in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h), specifically engaging in sexual contact in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37A-3.5(c), (e), (h), (i), and (k).

WHEREFORE, Complainant respectfully demands the entry of an Order against Respondent Steven A. Segovia, L.M.T., as follows:

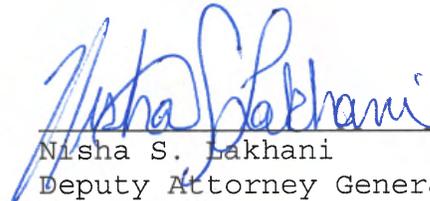
1. Suspending or revoking Respondent's license to practice massage and bodywork therapy in the State of New Jersey following a plenary hearing pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21;
2. Assessing civil penalties against Respondent for each and every unlawful act as set forth in the individual counts above, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-25;

3. Requiring Respondent to pay costs, including investigative costs, attorney's fees and costs, expert and fact witness fees and costs, costs of trial, and transcript costs, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-25; and

4. Ordering such other and further relief as the Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy shall deem just and appropriate under the circumstances.

GURBIR S. GREWAL
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY

By:



Nisha S. Lakhani
Deputy Attorney General

Date: June 11, 2018