

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
Tel: (973)648-7454
Attorney ID: 007512012

FILED

JUL 25 2018

**BOARD OF MASSAGE
AND BODYWORK THERAPY**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND 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. : **CONSENT ORDER**
LICENSE NO. 18KT00640600 :
:
TO PRACTICE MASSAGE AND :
BODYWORK THERAPY :
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY :

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy ("Board") upon receipt of information alleging that Steven A. Segovia, L.M.T. ("Respondent") engaged in inappropriate sexual contact, including oral sex, with M.K., a client, during a massage therapy session at Massage Envy in Manalapan, New Jersey in 2013.

During the investigation of M.K.'s allegations, the Enforcement Bureau ("EB") learned of information alleging that Respondent also engaged in inappropriate sexual contact with M.S., another client, during a massage therapy session at Massage Envy in Freehold, New Jersey in September 2013.

Respondent admitted to engaging in consensual oral sex with M.K. but consent is not a defense as set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:37A-3.5(k). Respondent denies engaging in inappropriate sexual contact with M.S. The allegations of Respondent's sexual misconduct with both M.K. and M.S. constitute behavior involving moral turpitude and relating adversely to the practice of massage and bodywork therapy in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(f); professional misconduct in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e); and violations of the provisions of several statutes and/or regulations administered by the Board, including prohibited sexual contact with a client in an ongoing client-therapist relationship pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37A-3.5(c), (h), and (i).

The parties being desirous of resolving this matter without the necessity of a hearing, and it appearing that Respondent agrees to surrender his license, to be deemed a permanent revocation, without making admissions and without prejudice to his ability to defend any action brought based on the above allegations, and that Respondent read the terms of the within Order and understands their meaning and effect and consents to be bound by same, and the Board finds that the within disposition is adequately protective of the public health, safety, and welfare, and for good cause shown,

IT IS, therefore, on this 25 day of July, 2018,

ORDERED that:

1. The license of Respondent, Steven A. Segovia, L.M.T., to practice Massage and Bodywork Therapy is hereby permanently revoked in the State of New Jersey, and such shall be with prejudice. Respondent may not re-apply for his license to practice massage and bodywork therapy in New Jersey at any future time.

2. Respondent shall immediately cease and desist from the practice of massage and bodywork therapy.

3. Respondent shall immediately forward his license, along with his wallet-sized biennial renewal license forthwith to Roman Guzik, Deputy Attorney General, 124 Halsey Street, 5th Floor, Newark, New Jersey 07101, on behalf of the Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy.

4. Respondent is assessed costs of the investigation and prosecution, totaling \$5,000.00. Respondent shall pay the total amount of \$5,000.00 by certified bank check, certified check, money order, wire transfer or credit card payable to the State of New Jersey. Any other form of payment will be rejected and will be returned to the party making the payment. For any costs not paid in full within ten (10) days of the entry of this Order, a Certificate of Debt shall be filed pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-24 to protect the judgment.

5. Payment of civil penalties and costs pursuant to Paragraph four (4) of this Consent Order, in the total amount of \$5,000.00, shall be made in equal payments of \$416.67 within twelve (12) months of the filing of this Consent Order. All payments shall be made on the first of every month by certified bank check, certified check, money order, wire transfer or credit card payable to the State of New Jersey and sent to the State Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy, c/o Ms. Toni-Ann Petrella-Diaz, Executive Director, New Jersey Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy, P.O. Box 45048, Newark, New Jersey 07101. Any other form of payment will be rejected and will be returned to the party making payment.

6. Respondent's failure to comply with any provisions of this Order may result in subsequent disciplinary proceedings, such as but not limited to disciplinary proceedings for professional misconduct in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).

7. The parties stipulate that entry of this Order is without prejudice to further action or investigation by this Board, the Attorney General, the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs, or other law enforcement entities resulting from Respondent's conduct prior or subsequent to entry of this Consent Order.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF MASSAGE AND BODYWORK THERAPY

By: Bruce Spicer
Bruce Spicer, LMBT
Chairperson

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

Steven A. Segovia
Steven A. Segovia, L.M.T.

7/24/18
Date

Consent is hereby given as to the form and entry of this Order.

By: Antonio Toto
Antonio Toto, Esq.

7/24/18
Date