

NORTH CAROLINA PSYCHOLOGY BOARD
Board Action
Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

As of February 8, 2024, for the fiscal year July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024, the following are summaries of actions taken or confirmed by the North Carolina Psychology Board pursuant to G.S. §90-270.148 and G.S. §90-270.149:

Blackwell, Richard T., Ph.D. - CONSENT ORDER was approved and signed on August 10, 2023. In a complaint received by the Board, the complainant (Client X) states the following about Respondent. Respondent provided him with psychological services from 2017 through 2022. Respondent also provided psychological services to Client X's wife. During the course of providing psychological services to Client X, Respondent and Client X developed a personal relationship which Client X states violated the appropriate boundaries of the therapeutic relationship, including Respondent's acceptance of significant gifts of money from Client X. Respondent also has not maintained any records of his psychological services. The above-described conduct described, if proven, constitutes violations of N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 90-270.148(a)(10), (a)(11), (a)(17), (a)(18), & (a)(20) of the North Carolina Psychology Practice Act and constitutes violations of Standards 3.04, 3.05, & 3.08 of the Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct (*American Psychological Association, 2017*). Respondent neither admits nor denies the complainant's allegations, but for purposes of resolving this matter enters into this Consent Order.

Respondent shall voluntarily relinquish his license to practice psychology in North Carolina and the Board shall accept his relinquishment. Respondent shall submit an affidavit to the Board office no later than September 7, 2023, attesting that he has made reasonable efforts to attempt to locate his license to practice psychology in North Carolina but has not been able to locate it. Since Respondent's license is currently suspended due to failure to renew, Respondent shall include in the affidavit to the Board, that he is no longer engaged in the practice of psychology in any way, including providing supervision to any mental health professionals. Respondent shall not practice psychology, as defined in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-270.136(8), after he relinquishes his license and Respondent agrees not to apply for re-licensure by this Board at any time in the future. Respondent has indicated that he plans to engage in coaching in the future. When engaging in coaching, which is an unlicensed activity, Respondent shall not engage in the practice of psychology in any manner, as defined in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-270.136(8), and as prohibited by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-270.149(b). In addition, Respondent shall not represent or hold himself out as a psychologist or describe his services as "psychology", or any of its derivatives, as prohibited by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-270.149(a) & (c). If any issues arise with Respondent's coaching clients that are of a psychological/clinical nature, he shall immediately refer the client(s) to a licensed mental health professional to provide treatment for these issues. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-270.148(h), the Board retains full jurisdiction to investigate any complaints or alleged violations of the North Carolina Psychology Practice Act and the Board may take disciplinary action, if warranted, as a result of any violations.

Bowles, Vernessa M., Ph.D. - CONSENT ORDER was approved and signed on August 10, 2023. For the 2022-2024 biennial renewal period, the Board sent licensees several reminder emails informing licensees that they were required to submit certificates of completion for the required continuing education to CE Broker prior to renewing their licenses. On October 3, 2022, Respondent submitted her online renewal form and attested to having submitted all of her continuing education documentation and certificates to CE Broker, as required to renew her license, even though she had not submitted the required continuing education documentation. On April 3, 2023, Daniel Collins, Board Executive Director, sent Respondent a certified letter, which Respondent did not claim, in which Respondent was provided a deadline of April 21, 2023, to submit all certificates and documentation of 24 hours of continuing education to CE Broker as required to renew her license. On May 2, 2023, Ariel Gould, Board Office Manager, sent Respondent an email and left Respondent a voice mail in order to obtain compliance with the continuing education requirements of the Board. As of this date, Respondent have not complied with the continuing education requirements set forth above and Respondent has only received three hours of continuing education credit, even though Respondent attested to having completed the required continuing education coursework on her 2022-2024 license renewal application. Respondent admits that the above-described conduct constitutes violations of N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 90-270.148(a)(5), & (a)(7) of the North Carolina Psychology Practice Act, and 21 NCAC 54 .2104 (a), (c), (e), & (j) of the North Carolina Psychology Board rules.

No later than October 10, 2023, Respondent shall submit all required documentation and certificates of missing continuing education to CE Broker and via email to the Board office. The required documentation and certificates are set forth in Rule 21 NCAC 54 .2014(e). Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete a minimum of two to four hours of tutorials with a psychologist designated by the Board regarding continuing education requirements of licensees and proper and timely response to the Board; how Respondent's conduct resulted in this action taken by the Board; Respondent's plan of action to prevent the recurrence of the behavior which resulted in Board action; and general ethical conduct. For the 2024-2026 licensure renewal, no later than September 27, 2024, Respondent shall submit an affidavit to the Board attesting that she has completed all the required continuing education, as set forth in Board Rule 21 NCAC 54 .2104, including having submitted all documentation and certificates to CE Broker, before Respondent will be allowed to renew her license. If Respondent does not submit the affidavit and all documentation of the required continuing education to CE Broker by September 27, 2024, her license shall be immediately suspended by the Board. This consent order constitutes Remedial action by the Board.

Caves, Judith, Ph.D. - CONSENT ORDER was approved and signed on February 8, 2024. For the 2022-2024 biennial renewal period, the Board sent licensees several reminder emails informing licensees that they were required to submit certificates of completion for the required continuing education to CE Broker prior to renewing their licenses. On October 22, 2022, Respondent submitted her online renewal form and attested to having submitted all of her continuing education documentation and certificates to CE Broker, even though she only

received one hour of continuing education credit. On April 3, 2023, Daniel Collins, Board Executive Director, sent Respondent a certified letter, in which Respondent was provided a deadline of April 21, 2023, to submit all certificates and documentation of 24 hours of continuing education to CE Broker, to which Respondent did not comply. At no point has Respondent complied with the Board's continuing education requirements. Respondent admits that the conduct described above constitutes violations of N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 90-270.148(a)(5), & (a)(7) of the North Carolina Psychology Practice Act, and 21 NCAC 54 .2104 (a), (c), (e), & (j) of the North Carolina Psychology Board rules.

Respondent shall voluntarily relinquish her license to practice psychology in North Carolina and the Board shall accept her relinquishment. Respondent shall not practice psychology, as defined in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-270.136(8), after she relinquishes her license and Respondent agrees not to apply for re-licensure by this Board at any time in the future. This Consent Order constitutes action by the Board against Respondent's license, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-270.148.

Hill, Stephen, Ph.D. - CONSENT ORDER was approved and signed on August 10, 2023. From 2003 through May 2021, Respondent provided psychological services for a Veteran's Administration therapy group for veterans with post-traumatic issues. Respondent's relationship with one of the veterans, Client X, exceeded the boundaries of the therapeutic relationship and they became friends. Specifically, Respondent communicated with Client X by phone and text about personal issues, went to the home of Client X and asked for and obtained medicinal marijuana from Client X on numerous occasions. In April 2021, Respondent was required to complete a drug screen by the VA and tested positive for marijuana and methamphetamines. Respondent contends that the positive test was verified by the Medical Review Officer without providing Respondent an opportunity to submit medical documentation of legally prescribed medications. In addition, Respondent contends that he successfully completed the EAP treatment program, which was required after testing positive. Respondent's inappropriate relationship with Client X caused harm to Client X. The above-described conduct constitutes violations of N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 90-270.148(a)(10), (a)(11), (a)(15), & (a)(20) of the North Carolina Psychology Practice Act and constitutes violations of Standards 2.06(a), 3.04, 3.05, 3.06, & 3.08 of the Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct (*American Psychological Association, 2017*).

Respondent shall voluntarily relinquish his license to practice psychology in North Carolina and the Board shall accept his relinquishment. No later than August 31, 2023, Respondent shall turn in his license to practice psychology in North Carolina to the Board office and transfer all of his North Carolina patient/client records to a psychologist licensed in North Carolina to be retained by that psychologist in a secure and confidential manner, as required by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-270.148(a)(18). If Respondent has no patient/client records to transfer or previously transferred such records as his license to practice psychology in North Carolina has been suspended due to nonrenewal, he shall so state in a signed affidavit to the Board no later than August 31, 2023. Since Respondent has not renewed his license to practice psychology in North Carolina, Respondent has ceased to engage in any activities that meet the definition of the practice of

psychology in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-270.136 (8), including the supervision of other mental health professionals. Respondent shall not practice psychology, as defined in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-270.136(8), after he relinquishes his license and Respondent agrees not to apply for re-licensure by this Board at any time in the future. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-270.148(h), the Board retains full jurisdiction to investigate any complaints or alleged violations of the North Carolina Psychology Practice Act and the Board may take disciplinary action, if warranted, as a result of any violations.

Flack, Elizabeth, M.A. - CONSENT ORDER was approved and signed on August 10, 2023. In October, 2019, Respondent began providing individual psychological services to Client X. In June, 2022, due to concerns about Client X's reported personal feelings about Respondent and that the therapeutic relationship was no longer beneficial, Respondent decided to terminate services with Client X. The day before Respondent's next session with Client X, Respondent emailed Client X to inform her that the next session would be Respondent's last session with Client X. During this session, Respondent and Client X decided they would meet for another six sessions to process the termination and for Respondent to refer Client X to a new mental health provider. That night Respondent sent an email to Client X stating that Respondent would not be meeting with Client X for any additional sessions, due to Respondent feeling overwhelmed and needing to take care of herself. Respondent also sent Client X a list of other mental health providers. This abrupt manner of termination was harmful to Client X. In addition, the documentation of Respondent's psychological sessions with Client X did not include summary content of each therapy session and many therapy notes were duplicated from session to session. Respondent did not maintain documentation of the emails and texts Respondent exchanged with Client X in the client record and Respondent did not document the consultation she received from other professionals. The above-described conduct constitutes violations of N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 90-270.148(a)(10), (a)(11), (a)(15), (a)(17), & (a)(18) of the North Carolina Psychology Practice Act, and constitutes violations of Standards 2.06(a), 3.04, 6.01, & 10.10(c) of the Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct (*American Psychological Association, 2017*).

This Consent Order shall constitute a condition on Respondent's license to practice psychology. Respondent shall successfully complete a minimum of eight to ten hours of tutorials with a psychologist designated by the Board regarding the following: proper termination with patients/clients; proper maintenance of patient/client records; how to handle personal matters so they do not interfere with the practice of psychology; how Respondent's conduct resulted in this action taken by the Board; Respondent's plan of action to prevent the recurrence of the behavior which resulted in Board action; and general ethical conduct.

For a period of one year consisting of at least 1500 hours of practice by Respondent, whichever takes longer, Respondent shall receive a minimum of one hour of individual face to face supervision, every two weeks, during any weeks in which Respondent engages in the practice of psychology. Respondent's Board approved supervisor shall submit quarterly supervision reports on the Board's supervision report form, including a written narrative description of Respondent's practice and response to supervision. The focus of the supervision shall be on the areas to be

addressed in the tutorials. Once Respondent has complied with all of the conditions in the Consent order, respondent may request Board approval to be released from this condition and, once approved, she will return to level 3 supervision.

Lanaville, Dawn, Ph.D. - CONSENT ORDER was approved and signed on August 10, 2023. In one case, the Board found facts sufficient to support the following: in Respondent's psychological evaluations for the parents, Respondent reported that the psychological testing results were invalid and could not be interpreted, but this was not consistent with their score profiles. Respondent administered an assessment instrument to the mother, even though the measure was specifically normed on the offender population and the mother had no criminal history. Respondent allowed the older daughter to be present during an interview with the younger daughter, even though this could have significantly impacted the responses of the younger daughter and Respondent did not discuss any limitations related to this in the psychological evaluation report. Respondent diagnosed both parents with Perpetrator of Parental Child Sexual Abuse even though this was not substantiated by DSS, and neither parent was convicted of abuse. Respondent recommended that both daughters be removed from the parents' custody even though the purpose of the evaluations was not to make custody recommendations. Respondent made conclusory statements regarding both parents and their guilt of abuse and recommended that both parents be criminally investigated and charged with physical and sexual abuse, when this was outside of the scope of Respondent's psychological evaluations. Respondent made statements regarding another family member, who Respondent did not meet, and Respondent recommended that this family member be criminally investigated and charged. The recommendations that Respondent provided for the family members were not based upon the psychological testing results. Respondent reported that the purpose of the psychological evaluations became to prove whether abuse occurred and to provide a custody evaluation despite no indication that these were the referral questions or that Respondent was appointed by the Court to these roles. Respondent disputes these facts as alleged by the Board, including but not limited to findings related to test interpretation, interviews with the children and diagnoses as applied to parents.

In a second case, the Board found facts sufficient to support the following: in the evaluation report, Respondent made conclusory statements about Client Y (who Respondent had not met or evaluated at that time) and his abuse of Client X. Respondent made recommendations regarding the child's custodial priority being given to Client X, when Respondent did not evaluate the child or perform a child custody evaluation. In 2020, Respondent provided court ordered psychological evaluations for Client X and Client Y. Despite using the same administration of the WAIS IV for Client X as the 2019 evaluation, the scores for Client X differed in each report. In the 2020 psychological evaluations, Respondent stated that the child was exhibiting signs of emotional abuse and made recommendations that the child be seen by a particular mental health provider to address issues of emotional abuse even though Respondent did not evaluate the child. Respondent also recommended that Client X and Client Y engage in co-parenting treatment. Respondent then recommended to Client X that Respondent provide the mental health treatment. Respondent provided mental health treatment to Client X even though she did not agree with the

findings in Respondent's second psychological evaluation report and had negative feelings toward Respondent as a result. There was no specific informed consent to the therapy that Respondent provided to Client X and Client Y and no treatment plan was documented. Respondent disputes these facts as alleged by the Board.

In the third case, the Board found facts sufficient to support the following: Respondent made absolute statements in the report regarding Client Z, Client Z's children (who Respondent did not evaluate), and Client Z's ex-husband (who Respondent did not evaluate) that were not supported by available evidence or data, or could not be proven as absolute conclusions. Respondent provided recommendations regarding the custody of Client Z's children despite not evaluating them or providing a custody evaluation. Respondent made conclusory statements about Client Z's ex-husband and his parenting abilities and judgment. Respondent stated that she was attempting to prove that abuse by Client Z's ex-husband occurred in the evaluation, which was not within the scope of Respondent's psychological evaluation. In addition, later in 2021, Respondent made statements on social media stating that Respondent provide psychological evaluations in child custody cases to "determine the problematic parent" and "to prove child abuse through assessment," indicating bias on Respondent's part in forensic matters related to child custody. Respondent disputes these facts as alleged by the Board.

Respondent admits that the facts as presented by the Board could constitute violations of N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 90-270.148(a)(10), (a)(11), (a)(14) & (a)(15) of the North Carolina Psychology Practice Act, and could constitute violations of Standards 2.01(a), 3.04, 3.05, 3.06, 9.01(a) & (b), 9.02(a) & (b), 9.06 & 10.01(a) of the Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct (*American Psychological Association, 2017*).

The license of the undersigned Respondent is hereby CENSURED. Respondent shall successfully complete a minimum of four to six hours of tutorials. For a period of one year consisting of the completion of twenty-five forensic psychological evaluations, whichever takes longer, Respondent shall receive a minimum of one hour of individual face to face supervision every two weeks during any week in which Respondent conducts any forensic psychological evaluations.

Leaver, Camille, M.A. - CONSENT ORDER was approved and signed on August 10, 2023. In 2017, Respondent began providing psychological services consisting of individual psychotherapy to Client X, and beginning in 2018, Respondent visited Client X's home regularly while continuing to provide her with psychological services. Respondent's relationship with Client X exceeded the boundaries of a psychologist-client relationship, with Respondent forming a friendship with Client X. In August 2018, Client X terminated the psychologist-client relationship with Respondent. Respondent later entered into a sexually intimate relationship with Client X. Respondent's inappropriate relationship with Client X continued until September 2020. In 2019, during a previous investigation about this inappropriate relationship, Respondent did not respond completely to inquiries from the Board and the Board investigator regarding the nature of Respondent's relationship with Client X. The above-described conduct constitutes violations

of N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 90-270.148(a)(10) & (a)(22) of the North Carolina Psychology Practice Act and constitutes violations of Standards 3.05, 10.05, & 10.08(a) of the Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct (*American Psychological Association, 2017*).

Respondent voluntarily relinquished her license to practice psychology in North Carolina in a Consent Order with the Board, dated January 8, 2020. Respondent shall not apply for re-licensure by this Board at any time in the future. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-270.148(h), the Board retains full jurisdiction to investigate any complaints or alleged violations of the North Carolina Psychology Practice Act (the “Act”) and the Board may take disciplinary action, if warranted and authorized by the Act, as a result of any violations. This Consent Order constitutes action by the Board against Respondent’s license, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-270.148.

Pinder Amaker, Stephanie, Ph.D. – - CONSENT ORDER was approved and signed on February 8, 2024. For the 2022-2024 biennial renewal period, the Board sent licensees several reminder emails informing licensees that they were required to submit certificates of completion for the required continuing education 2to CE Broker prior to renewing their licenses. On November 29, 2022, Respondent submitted her online renewal form and attested to having submitted all of her continuing education documentation and certificates to CE Broker, as required to renew her license for the 2022-2024 biennial renewal period. By November 30, 2022, Respondent was required to complete and submit all certificates and documentation of completing the required continuing education. Respondent did not properly submit the documentation within the deadline. On October 13, 2023, Daniel Collins, Board Executive Director, sent Respondent a certified letter, in which Respondent was provided a deadline of November 6, 2023, to properly submit all certificates and documentation. In addition, on October 20, 2023, Ariel Gould, Board Office Manager, left Respondent a voice mail in order for Respondent to properly submit her continuing education documentation. Respondent did not respond to the voice mail or certified letter. Respondent has now complied with the continuing education requirements set forth above and has properly submitted her continuing education documentation. Respondent admits that the conduct described above constitutes violations of N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 90-270.148(a)(5), & (a)(7) of the North Carolina Psychology Practice Act, and 21 NCAC 54 .2104 (a), (c), (e), & (j) of the North Carolina Psychology Board rules.

Respondent shall voluntarily relinquish her license to practice psychology in North Carolina and the Board shall accept her relinquishment. Respondent shall not practice psychology, as defined in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-270.136(8), after she relinquishes her license. Should Respondent apply for relicensure by the Board in the future, Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete a minimum of two to four hours of tutorials with a psychologist designated by the Board regarding continuing education requirements of licensees and proper and timely response to the Board; how Respondent’s conduct resulted in this action taken by the Board; Respondent’s plan of action to prevent the recurrence of the behavior which resulted in Board action; and general ethical conduct. The action taken by the Board in this Consent Order shall constitute remedial action, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-270.148(b).

Wheeler, Anne C., Ph.D. - CONSENT ORDER was approved and signed on November 9, 2023. For the 2022-2024 biennial renewal period, the Board sent licensees several reminder emails informing licensees that they were required to submit certificates of completion for the required continuing education to CE Broker prior to renewing their licenses. On November 29, 2022, Respondent submitted her online renewal form and attested to having submitted all of her continuing education documentation and certificates to CE Broker, even though she only submitted 20.5 hours of continuing education. On April 3, 2023, Daniel Collins, Board Executive Director, sent Respondent a certified letter, in which Respondent was provided a deadline of April 21, 2023, to submit all certificates and documentation of 24 hours of continuing education to CE Broker, to which Respondent did not comply. Following receipt of the Statement of Charges in this matter, on August 7, 2023, Respondent completed all of the required continuing education coursework. Respondent admits that the conduct described above constitutes violations of N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 90-270.148(a)(5), & (a)(7) of the North Carolina Psychology Practice Act, and 21 NCAC 54 .2104 (a), (c), (e), & (j) of the North Carolina Psychology Board rules.

Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete a minimum of two to four hours of tutorials which address the continuing education requirements of licensees and proper and timely response to the Board; how Respondent's conduct resulted in this action taken by the Board; Respondent's plan of action to prevent the recurrence of the behavior which resulted in Board action; and general ethical conduct. For the 2024-2026 licensure renewal, no later than September 27, 2024, Respondent shall submit an affidavit to the Board attesting that she has completed all the required continuing education, including having submitted all documentation and certificates to CE Broker, before Respondent will be allowed to renew her license. If Respondent does not submit the affidavit and all documentation of the required continuing education to CE Broker by September 27, 2024, her license shall be immediately suspended by the Board. This consent order constitutes Remedial action by the Board.