

WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE
ETHICS COMMITTEE

NORTH CAROLINA

OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA SUBSTANCE ABUSE
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD
EC-268-13

THE NORTH CAROLINA)
SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROFESSIONAL)
PRACTICE BOARD,)
Petitioner)

CONSENT ORDER

WILLIAM E. HOWARD,)
Respondent)

This matter is before the Ethics Committee (the "Committee") of the North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board (the "Board"), pursuant to Chapter 150B of the North Carolina General Statutes and Title 21 of the North Carolina Administrative Code, Chapter 68, Section .0600, and with the consent of William E. Howard (Respondent), Certified Substance Abuse Counselor-Intern (CSAC-I), #10678, to consider the entry of a Consent Order in lieu of an Administrative hearing.

Respondent is representing himself and has received a proposed Informal Resolution resulting from a review of this Complaint by the Committee. Committee Chairman, Lynn Inman, presented the findings of the Committee's investigation into these matters to the Respondent. Both parties stipulate and agree to the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law recited in this Consent Order and to the discipline imposed. Based upon the consent of the parties the Ethics Committee hereby enters the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent Howard was credentialed by the Board as a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor Intern on or about May 3, 2012.
2. At all times relevant to this Order, Respondent Howard was engaged in practice as a CSAC-I in Iredell County, North Carolina while providing services as a substance abuse professional at Daymark Recovery Services.
3. Respondent Howard admits in a statement given to the Board that he was "...joking about sexual things with a female client on a Facebook message..." as well as making inappropriate sexual comments on an ongoing basis.
4. Respondent's conduct is mitigated by his cooperation with the Board in accepting an informal resolution but aggravated by the fact that the dual relationship involved was of a sexual nature.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent Howard is in violation of North Carolina General Statute 90-113.44 (a)(6) and (a)(10), as well as Rule 21 NCAC 68 .0509 (Client Relationships) prohibiting dual relationships with a client.

The Respondent admits that sufficient violations of the laws governing the substance abuse profession exist for the Board to take action as authorized by G.S. 90-113.33 (2).

The Respondent waives any further Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in these matters.

Based on the foregoing, and with the consent of the Respondent, IT IS
THEREFORE THE

ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

1. That Respondent Howard's CSAC-I credential be suspended for period of two (2) years, effective upon the date of signing by both parties of this Consent Order.
2. That Respondent Howard, once he returns to employment as a substance abuse professional, shall work only under supervision by a Certified Clinical Supervisor for the next two thousand (2,000) hours at a rate of one hour per twenty (20) hours of work.
3. That Respondent shall complete twelve (12) hours of Board-approved ethics training in addition to the standard continuing education hours required for re-credentialing.
4. That Respondent shall complete all aspects of this Order prior to sitting for the Certified Substance Abuse Credential (ADC) examination.
5. That the Respondent shall violate no rules adopted by the Board or any provision of the Practice Act during the period of suspension.

This the 3 day of July, 2014.

Lynn Inman

Lynn Inman, LCAS, CSAPC
Ethics Chairperson
NCSAPPB

William Howard 10/28/14

William E. Howard
Respondent