

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
HEALTH SERVICES REGULATION
BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN SOCIAL WORK**

VS.

MARTIN JOHNSTON

CONSENT ORDER

Pursuant to Section 5-39.1-10 the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, 2004 Reenactment, and the Rules and Regulations promulgated thereunder, the Department of Health (hereinafter "Department"), the Board of Examiners in Social Work (hereinafter "Board") has investigated a complaint charging Martin Johnston (hereinafter "Respondent") with a violation of Section 5-39.1-10 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, 2004 Reenactment.

After consideration by the Department, the following constitutes the Findings of Fact with respect to the profession performance of the Respondent:

1. Respondent is a licensed independent social worker licensed to practice in the State of Rhode Island.
2. That after a course of treatment for Client A ended in February of 2003, Respondent did violate section 1.06(c) of the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics in that he did engage in multiple relationships with Client A through an ongoing personal relationship with him and his family and by paying her to do billing work for his professional practice in 1997.

The conduct described in Paragraph 2 herein constitutes unprofessional conduct pursuant to Section 5-39.1-10 of the Rhode Island General Laws and the Rules and Regulation promulgated thereunder.

The parties agree as follows:

1. Respondent is a licensed independent social worker licensed to practice in the State of Rhode Island.
2. Respondent admits to the jurisdiction of the Board and hereby agrees to remain under the jurisdiction of the Department.
3. Respondent has read this Consent Order and understands that it is a proposal of the Department and is subject to the final approval by the Department. This Consent Order and the contents thereof are not binding on Respondent until final approval by the Department.
4. Respondent hereby acknowledges and waives:
 - a. The right to appear personally or by counsel or both before the Department;
 - b. The right to produce witnesses and evidence in his behalf at a hearing;
 - c. The right to cross-examine witnesses;
 - d. The right to have subpoenas issued by the Department;
 - e. The right to further procedural steps except for those specifically contained herein; and
 - f. Any and all rights of appeal of this Consent Order.
5. This Consent Order shall become part of the public record of this proceeding once it is accepted by all parties.
6. Acceptance by the Respondent and approval by the Department of this Consent Order constitutes an admission of the facts contained herein.
7. That Respondent agrees to the sanction of a Reprimand.

8. That should Respondent fail to comply with the laws and regulations governing the practice of social work his license to practice, as a licensed independent social worker shall be subject to suspension or other appropriate disciplinary action.

9. That this Consent Order shall remain in full force and effect pending further action of the Department.

6-18-2007
Date

Martin L. Johnston
Martin L. Johnston

June 22, 2007
Date

Charles Alexandre
Charles Alexandre
Chief, Health Professions Regulation