

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK**

No. 2007-06-SW

**IN THE MATTER OF ROBERT J. ANDREWS, MSW, LISCW
License No. ISW 01299**

CONSENT ORDER

The Board of Social Work (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") received notice from the Complainant that Robert J. Andrews committed certain violations of the ethical standards of the National Association of Social Workers during the treatment. This matter was referred to the Board. The findings of fact and conclusions of law are set forth below.

FINDINGS OF FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Respondent is a 54-year-old licensed independent social worker. The Respondent has been a licensed independent social worker in the state of Rhode Island since 2000. The Respondent completed his Master of Social Work degree (MSW) from Rhode Island College in May of 1990.
2. The Complainant was referred to the Respondent by his Psychiatrist for follow up in treating his Generalized Anxiety Disorder, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and, his Social Phobia Disorder. The Respondent was also responsible to assist in making a definitive diagnosis in regard to ruling out in a diagnosis of Autism or Asperger's Syndrome for the Complainant. Additionally, there was some general anxiety over sexual orientation issues.
3. During a therapeutic session the Complainant indicated that he was experiencing

transference issues. Respondent failed to obtain appropriate consultation and supervision with another social worker, following this patient disclosure, concerning the clinical and ethical implications of the Complainant's request.

4. Early in the course of treatment, the Complainant stated that he believed he was homosexual, and was having difficulty dealing with his sexual orientation, particularly when it came to his family.
5. The Complainant's therapy sessions incorporated different treatment modalities and strategies, which included Audio-Visual Entrainment, Cognitive Behavior Techniques (CBT), Relaxation and Sensory Techniques (RST), Behavior Modification Techniques (BMT), music therapy, and Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing Therapy (EMDR). The Complainant incorporated physical touch in conjunction with some of the treatment modalities.
6. Although the Respondent claims to have used certain therapeutic modalities for treatment, he failed to obtain appropriate informed consent explaining the purpose and goals of these modalities, benefits and risks, and reasonable alternatives.
7. The Respondent's consent form does not include explanatory detail consistent with standards in the social work profession and includes jargon and abbreviations that may not be comprehensible to the Respondent's clients.
8. The Respondent is guilty of "unprofessional conduct" in violation of NASW Ethical Standard 1.03 (failure to show evidence of signed treatment plan/informed consent in the client record), NASW Ethical Standard 1.10 (failure to set clear, appropriate, and culturally sensitive boundaries with respect to physical contact with client), and NASW Ethical Standards 4.01 & 1.04 (providing treatment to

client using some modalities that fall outside of accepted areas of social work practice).

The parties agree as follows:

- a Respondent is a licensed independent social worker, and doing business under and by virtue of the Laws of the State of Rhode Island, allopathic license number, ISW 01299;
- b Respondent admits to the jurisdiction of the Board and hereby agrees to remain under the jurisdiction of the Board;
- (c) Respondent has read this Consent Order and understands that it is a proposal of the Board and is subject to the final approval of the Board. This Consent Order is not binding on Respondent until final ratification by the Board.
- (d) Respondent hereby acknowledges and waives:
 - d (1) The right to appear personally or by counsel or both before the Board;
 - (2) The right to produce witnesses and evidence in his behalf at a hearing;
 - e
 - f (3) The right to cross-examine witnesses;
 - g (4) The right to have subpoenas issued by the Board;
 - h (5) The right to further procedural steps except for those specifically contained herein;
 - i (6) Any and all rights of appeal of this Consent Order;
 - (7) Any objection to the fact that this Consent Order will be presented to the Board for consideration and review;
 - (8) Any objection to the fact that it will be necessary for the Board to

become acquainted with all evidence pertaining to this matter in order to review adequately this Consent Order;

(9) Any objection to the fact that potential bias against the Respondent may occur as a result of the presentation of this Consent Order. The signing of this Consent Order is for settlement purposes only.

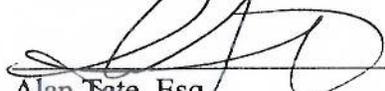
(10) The Respondent must obtain an evaluation from a forensic evaluator approved, in writing, by the Board. The Respondent shall be placed on probation for a period of two years. The Respondent shall attend Board approved continuing education courses on professional boundaries, documentation, consultation, and informed consent. These courses shall be completed within 6 months for a total of 10 continuing education hours. Respondent shall pay a One Thousand (\$1,000.00) Dollars administrative fee upon ratification of this order.

Respondent,



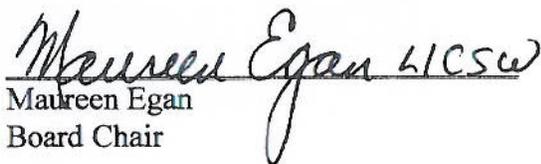
Robert J. Andrews, MSW, LICSW

Attorney for the Respondent,



Alan Tate, Esq.
Tate and Elias

Ratified by the Department of Health on *March 1*, 2011



Maureen Egan
Board Chair