

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS**

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS AND
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS**

IN THE MATTER OF:

SCOTT TELLIER, LMHC

License Number MHC00098

MHC Complaint Numbers C12-963 and C12-977

SUMMARY SUSPENSION

Scott Tellier, M.S. (hereinafter "Respondent") is licensed as a Mental Health Counselor in Rhode Island. The Division of Professional Regulation (hereinafter the "Division") investigated complaints made by two former clients and now institutes civil charges as specified below, and pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws §§ 5-63.2-21 and 22 finds that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the Respondent has committed the acts enumerated below. The Division made the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent is a Mental Health Counselor who has been licensed in Rhode Island since March 21, 1998, and his practice is or was located at 14 Anthony Drive, North Kingstown, Rhode Island.
2. Respondent began to treat Client A in 2006, when she was about 21 years old. During counseling on one occasion, Respondent asked her to place her feet in his lap, and on other occasions asked her to engage in other non-sexual physical contact to assist her become more trusting, which is not acceptable practice by a

mental health counselor. Respondent asked Client A's parents to become engaged in counseling sessions, and he began to counsel the client's mother, who is referred to hereinafter as Client B.

3. Respondent began a personal relationship with Client B in 2007, and began to visit the family home nearly every day for a period; and Respondent would walk into Client A's bedroom without knocking on more than one occasion, and he would call Client A's phone repeatedly, including about 20 phone calls in one half-hour period. Respondent continued to be Client A's counselor during this time.
4. Respondent continued to make harassing phone calls to Client A after she terminated the counseling relationship with him.
5. Respondent at times would call Client B's phone up to ten times per day. Respondent in June 2012 borrowed up to \$5120 from Client B that he ultimately repaid to Client B.
6. Both Clients A and B stated that Respondent was antagonistic and verbally abusive to Client A while he was visiting them in their home, and that he asserted to Client B that this behavior was therapeutic and would benefit Client A.
7. Upon being informed of the two complaints described herein, Respondent responded in writing to the Department of Health that he would not acknowledge the allegations but that he surrenders his license and is closing his practice.
8. Respondent's alleged conduct is in violation of three provisions of the Code of Ethics of the National Board for Certified Counselors; to wit, § 5, Respondent engaged in harmful multiple relationships with clients; § 6, Respondent did not

discuss important considerations to avoid exploitation before entering into a non-counseling relationship with a former client; and § 61, Respondent misused his professional influence and met his own needs at the expense of his clients and their welfare.

9. Respondent entered into a consent order with the Department of Health on April 6, 2005, for unprofessional conduct.
10. Respondent has violated R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-63.2-21(6) and (7) by being habitually negligent in the performance of his duties, and by repeatedly violating the ethical principles governing mental health counselors in force at the time the charge was made.

Based on the foregoing, the parties agree as follows:

1. The Department of Health finds that public health, safety and welfare imperatively requires emergency action, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-14(c), and Respondent's license as a Mental Health Counselor is immediately suspended until further hearing in this matter.
2. Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-63.2-22, Respondent shall be given notice and shall have the right to request an administrative hearing within twenty (20) days of this suspension. The Administrative Hearing Officer may suspend or revoke Respondent's license, or impose further discipline, for the remainder of Respondent's licensure period if the alleged violation is proven by a preponderance of evidence.

Ordered this 31 day of December, 2012:



Michael Fine, M.D.
Director of Health

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that a copy of the within Summary Suspension has been delivered and mailed on this 31st day of December, 2012, to the home of Scott Tellier, 151 Howard Hill Road, Foster, Rhode Island, 02825, and mailed to 14 Anthony Drive, North Kingstown, Rhode Island.



Linda Julian