

STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS

DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL
REGULATION,

Petitioner,

vs.

CASE NO. 0049414

ROBERT KEITH BERNTSON,

Respondent.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT

COMES NOW, the Petitioner, Department of Professional Regulation, hereinafter referred to as "Petitioner", and files this Administrative Complaint before the Board of Psychological Examiners, against Robert Keith Bernntson, hereinafter referred to as "Respondent", and alleges:

1. Petitioner, Department of Professional Regulation, is the state agency charged with regulating the practice of psychology services in the State of Florida pursuant to Section 20.30, Florida Statutes, Chapter 455, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 490, Florida Statutes.

2. Respondent is, and has been at all times material hereto, a licensed psychologist in the State of Florida, having been issued license number 0049414. Respondent's last known address is 2601 E. Oakland Park Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33306.

3. During diverse dates unknown to Petitioner, occurring since Respondent's divorce, Respondent has exhibited inappropriate behavior by making numerous threats and by harassing his ex-wife, ~~F. Bernntson, E. Bernntson~~. Respondent's behavior includes but is not limited to: letting the air out of his ex-wife's car's tires, violating a restraining order which prohibits contact with his ex-wife and threatening his ex-wife with physical harm, including death threats.

4. Based on the foregoing, Respondent is in violation of Section 490.009(2)(p) Florida Statutes (1983), which prohibits the practice of psychology by those unable to practice with reasonable skill and competence as a result of any mental or physical condition.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner respectfully requests the Board of Psychological Examiners to enter an Order imposing one or more of the following penalties: revocation or suspension of the Respondent's license, restriction of the Respondent's practice, imposition of an administrative fine, issuance of a reprimand, placement of the Respondent on probation, and/or any other relief that the Board deems appropriate.

SIGNED this 9th day of November, 1984.

Fred Roche
FRED ROCHE, Secretary

COUNSEL FOR DEPARTMENT:

Julia P. Forrester
Staff Attorney
Department of Professional Regulation
130 North Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
(904) 488-0062

JPF/MMH/ch

FILED
CLERK
DATE November 3, 1984

STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS

DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL
REGULATION,

CASE NO. 0049414

Petitioner,

vs.

ROBERT KEITH BERNTSON,

Respondent.

FINAL ORDER

This case came to be heard before the Board of Psychological Examiners at a public meeting on January 7, 1985 in Miami, Florida. Pursuant to Administrative Complaint, it was alleged that Respondent violated specified sections of Chapter 490, Florida Statutes. At the Respondent's election the hearing was conducted in accordance with the provisions of Section 120.57(2), Florida Statutes. Respondent, accompanied by counsel, was present and testified at the hearing. The facts are not contested.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The allegations of fact set forth in the Administrative Complaint are approved and adopted and incorporated herein by reference as the findings of fact of the Board.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The conclusions of law set forth in the Administrative Complaint are approved and adopted and incorporated by reference as the conclusions of law of the Board.

The violations set forth in the Administrative Complaint warrant disciplinary action by the Board. THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED:

The Respondent shall be and hereby is placed on probation for an indefinite period of time. The probationary period shall be for a minimum of one year; after one year the Respondent may petition the Board for termination of probation. The terms of probation shall be as follows:

1. The Respondent shall attend therapy sessions of a qualified mental health professional. The frequency and length of therapy sessions shall be prescribed by the mental health professional as are necessary for the rehabilitation and mental health of the Respondent. (Continued therapy by Dr. Geertz is acceptable to the Board). The therapy may be terminated by Order of the Board upon the submission of information from the therapist which demonstrates to the Board's satisfaction that therapy is no longer necessary for the mental health of Respondent.

2. The Respondent shall attend meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous on a regular (no less than three times per month) basis. The Respondent shall obtain sponsorship for his activities with Alcoholics Anonymous, and Respondent's sponsor shall submit quarterly reports to the Board office verifying attendance at Alcohol Anonymous meetings.

3. Respondent shall limit his practice to diagnostic and assessment cases, except that Respondent may continue to treat current, on-going therapy patients under the supervision of Dr. Caddy. Such supervision shall include, at least, one hour per week of face-to-face consultation. The supervisor shall submit quarterly reports to the Board office outlining the nature and quality of Respondent's work as a therapist.

4. The restriction on new therapy patients shall be terminated upon the recommendation of Dr. Caddy, and the written approval of the Chairman of the Board of Psychological Examiners.

5. The Respondent shall not take formal responsibility for supervision of psychological trainees.

6. The Respondent shall appear before the Board of Psychological Examiners approximately one year from the date of filing of this Final Order, and answer questions from the Board members regarding his mental condition and his professional practice.

7. Modification of particular terms and conditions of probation (i.e. a change of employment, a change of therapist, a change of supervisor) may be made upon written approval by the Chairman of the Board of Psychological Examiners.

Pursuant to Section 120.59, Florida Statutes, the parties are hereby notified they may appeal this final order by filing one copy of a notice of appeal with the clerk of the agency and by filing the filing fee and one copy of a notice of appeal with the District Court of Appeal within thirty days of the date this order is filed.

This Order shall take effect on the date of filing with the clerk of the Department of Professional Regulation.

DONE and ORDERED this _____ day of _____, 1985.

BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS

By: 

Dr. Paul Schauble
Chairman

cc: All Counsel of Record

Robert Forrester, M.S.

Bell's Terre of Sunrise, Suite 211, Box 35
7800 W. Oakland Park Boulevard
Sunrise, Florida 33321