

IN THE MATTER OF

\* BEFORE THE STATE

LESLIE P. MANDELL

\* BOARD OF EXAMINERS

License Number: 01748

\* OF

Respondent

\* PSYCHOLOGISTS

\* \* \* \* \*

**ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION  
OF LICENSE TO PRACTICE PSYCHOLOGY**

The State Board of Examiners of Psychologists hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDS** the license of Leslie P. Mandell, Ph.D. (D.O. B. 3/ 3/ 42), to practice psychology in the State of Maryland. The Board takes such action pursuant to its authority in Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-226 that the public health, safety and welfare require emergency action.

**INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS**

The Board has reason to believe that the following facts are true:

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was and is licensed to practice psychology in the State of Maryland. The Respondent was originally licensed to practice psychology in Maryland on November 18, 1983.

2. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was in private practice as a psychologist at 910 Starbit Road, Towson, Maryland 21286.

3. On or about August 12, 1999, Patient A<sup>1</sup> and her mother were interviewed by the Baltimore County Police after Patient A's mother reported that the Respondent had inappropriately touched Patient A. The Respondent treated Patient A and her mother for

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<sup>1</sup> In order to preserve the confidentiality of the patient, this Order for Summary Suspension will not include patient names. Patient names will be provided to Respondent.

about a two (2) year period commencing in 1992.

4. At the time the therapy began, Patient A was approximately seven or eight years old. While under treatment with the Respondent, the Respondent washed Patient A's genital areas, sexually touching her while she was taking a shower during an overnight stay at the Respondent's home.

5. During the period that Respondent treated Patient A, the Respondent also took Patient A for rides in his car and walks with his pet. He bought Patient A a bicycle, books and other toys. The Respondent also helped Patient A's mother purchase items for the household.

6. On or about September 17, 1999, Patient B reported to the Baltimore County Police that she was treated by the Respondent from March 1997 until January 1998. Patient B was approximately fourteen years old at the time that she began seeing the Respondent. The Respondent saw Patient B on most Wednesday and Sundays. On Sundays, Patient B was at the Respondent's home for five to eight hours.

7. During therapy, the Respondent encouraged Patient B to have a sexual relationship with her body. The Respondent told Patient B that she needed to be in touch with her body and encouraged Patient B to masturbate. The Respondent also purchased, and encouraged Patient B to read, books that involved the topic of sex, and wanted to read and discuss the content of the books with her. He often discussed his other patients with Patient B.

8. Based on the above-investigative facts, the Board has cause to believe that the Respondent has violated Md. Code Ann. Health Occ. §18-313(b) (1994). The pertinent

provision of H.O. §18-313(b) provides as follows:

Subject to the hearing provisions of §18-315 of this subtitle, the Board, on the affirmative vote of a majority of its members then serving, may deny a license to any applicant, reprimand any licensee, place any licensee on probation, or suspend or revoke a license if the applicant or licensee:

- (7) Violates the Code of Ethics adopted by the Board under § 18-311 of this subtitle;
- (16) Behaves immorally in the practice of psychology;
- (17) Commits an act of unprofessional conduct in the practice of psychology.

Md. Regs. Code ("COMAR") tit. 10 § 36.05, Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, which states:

.03 Ethical Responsibility.

A. In general, a psychologist shall:

- (6) Refrain from engaging in other relationships that could limit the psychologist's objectivity or create a conflict of interest;

.05 Client Welfare.

A. Exploitation or Undue Influence. A psychologist shall:

- (5) Refrain from exploiting the trust and dependency of clients, students, and subordinates.

B. Impaired Objectivity and Dual Relationships.

- (1) A psychologist may not undertake or continue a professional relationship with a client when objectivity is or could reasonably be expected to be impaired because of a present or previous familial, social, sexual, emotional,

financial, supervisory, political, administrative, or legal relationship with the client or a relevant person associated with or related to the client.

- (2) A psychologist may not:
  - (a) Engage in an exploitative relationship with a past or a present client, including, but not limited to, any:
    - (i) Sexual intercourse or other sexual contact,
    - (ii) Verbal or physical behavior which is sexually seductive, demeaning, or harassing; or
  - (b) Enter into a dual relationship with a past or present client.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Based on the foregoing investigative facts, the Board concludes that the public health, safety and welfare imperatively require emergency action in this case, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Gov't §10-226(c)(2) (1995).

#### **ORDER**

Based on the foregoing, it is this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October 1999, that a majority of the fully authorized membership of the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists:

**ORDERED** that pursuant to the authority vested by Md. Code Ann., State Gov't. § 10-226, the **SUMMARY SUSPENSION** of Respondent's license to practice psychology in the State of Maryland issued on October 14, 1999 is hereby continued; and be it further

**ORDERED** that upon the written request of the Respondent and within ten (10) days of the date of issuance of this continued **SUMMARY SUSPENSION**, that date being the date on which the Board reenters this **ORDER**, a hearing will be scheduled to consider the merits of this **SUMMARY SUSPENSION**. A hearing on the merits of the **SUMMARY SUSPENSION** will be held at the Board of Examiners of Psychologists, 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215, within a reasonable time after the Respondent's request; and be it further

**ORDERED** that on presentation of this Order, the Respondent **SHALL SURRENDER** to the Board's designee to the extent that the Respondent has not already done so pursuant to the **SUMMARY SUSPENSION** dated October 14, 1999, the following items:

- (a) Respondent's original Maryland wall display license, number 01748;
- (b) Respondent's current wallet license, number 01748; and be it further

**ORDERED** that this is a Final Order of the Board and, as such is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-611 et seq. (1995).

10/14/99  
Date

  
Daniel Malone, Ph.D.  
Chair, Board of Examiners  
of Psychologists

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