

BEFORE THE IOWA BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF:

THOMAS PETERSON,
Ph.D.
License No. 301 00564,

Respondent.

CASE NO 03-001

STATEMENT OF CHARGES,
SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL
ORDER

COMES NOW the Iowa Board of Psychology Examiners (“the Board”) and Thomas Peterson, Ph.D. (Respondent), and, pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 17A, 154B and 272C (1999), (2001), (2003) and (2005), enter into this Combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement and Final Order.

STATEMENT OF CHARGES

1. Respondent Thomas Peterson, Ph.D. (“Respondent”) was issued license No. 301-00564 to practice psychology in the State of Iowa on July 22, 1988, as recorded in the permanent records in the office of the Board and his license is current until June 30, 2006.
2. Respondent has engaged in conduct that violates the laws and rules governing the Board’s licensees and provides the Board with jurisdiction to take disciplinary action.

COUNT ONE

3. Respondent is charged with unethical conduct in violation of Iowa Code sections 272C.10(3) (1999) and 147.55(3) (1999), 645 Iowa Admin. Code sections 240.212(1)(c) and 240.212(8)(c) (1999), and sections 1.23, 1.24, and 5.04, of the 1992 Code of the *Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct* [“Code of Conduct”] incorporated by reference in rule 645-240.212(14) (1999). Respondent violated these provisions by falsifying, altering, and destroying client records.

CIRCUMSTANCES

4. At all times during the following events the Respondent was licensed to practice psychology in the State of Iowa.
5. From 1992 to January 2001, Respondent was employed as director of the counseling center at a University.
6. On November 2, 1999, the Respondent commenced a doctor-patient relationship with Patient A.
7. Respondent met with Patient A again on November 12, 1999.
8. On November 18, 1999, Patient A committed suicide.
9. Following Patient A's death, Respondent falsified, altered, and destroyed in part the documentation of professional services he had provided.
10. Respondent's failure to properly maintain his documentation of the professional services provided to Patient A constitutes unethical conduct.
11. Respondent's conduct following Patient A's death, was in violation of the laws and rules governing the practice of psychology.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

12. The Board has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter.
13. By executing this Settlement Agreement, the Respondent expressly waives the right to notice and hearing on the charges.
14. Respondent is freely and voluntarily entering into this agreement, and he agrees that the State's counsel may present this agreement to the Board.

15. This Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement is subject to approval of the Board. If the Board fails to approve this Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement, it shall have no force or effect to either party.

16. The Board's approval of the Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement shall constitute the resolution of a contested case proceeding and shall be a FINAL ORDER of the Board.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

17. Continuing Education. Respondent will complete twelve (12) total hours of continuing education that is applicable to the following: 1) risk assessment and management of the suicidal patient; and 2) documentation and recordkeeping. Respondent must obtain Board approval before enrolling in any course(s) taken to satisfy this obligation.

These hours shall be in addition to the standard continuing education renewal requirements. This requirement is to be fulfilled prior to the next license renewal period following receipt of this order.

18. This Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement, and Final Order is a public record available for inspection and copying in accordance with the requirements of Iowa Code Chapter 22 and shall become a part of the permanent record of Respondent.

The Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement, and Final Order is approved by the Board on this 5th day of May, 2006.