

IN THE MATTER OF	*	BEFORE THE
OSCAR MEEHLING, Ph.D.	*	MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF
	*	EXAMINERS OF PSYCHOLOGISTS
* * * * *	*	* * * * *

CONSENT ORDER
FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

BACKGROUND

Based upon certain information having coming to the attention of the Board of Examiners of Psychologists (the "Board") regarding the psychology practice of **OSCAR MEEHLING, Ph.D.** (the "Respondent"), the Board requested an investigation by the Investigative Unit of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Based on information discovered during that investigation, the Board determined to charge the Respondent with violations of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 43, §635, and Health Occupations Article, §16-313(7) and (16).

The Respondent is represented by Gerard P. Martin, Esq. of Miles and Stockbridge. The Administrative Prosecutor is Nancy P. Tennis, Assistant Attorney General. As a result of negotiations, the parties have agreed to enter into a Consent Order as set forth below. The Board makes the following Findings of Fact prior to issuing the Consent Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. At all times relevant to the charges in the above-captioned case, Respondent was licensed as a psychologist in the State of Maryland and practiced as such.

2. In October 1975, Respondent began to conduct marriage counselling for Patient A and her husband. Respondent treated both Patient A and her husband individually as well as together.
3. In April 1976, Respondent became romantically involved with Patient A, and began a sexual relationship with her.
4. Despite his emotional and sexual relationship with Patient A, Respondent continued to treat her.
5. During the early part of 1977, Patient A assisted Respondent in connection with his teaching of a course for Essex Community College. Respondent paid Patient A for this assistance.
6. In November, 1976, leaving his wife, the Respondent moved into an apartment and continued his relationship with Patient A. Despite the escalation of their personal relationship, Respondent continued to administer therapy to Patient A.
7. In February 1977, Respondent's and Patient A's sexual relationship ended and he returned to his first wife. Respondent continued treating Patient A through 1978.
8. Patient A continued to work for Respondent until July 1986.
9. In January 1977, Respondent began treating Patient B, a fifteen-year old girl, with sessions of therapy averaging at least once per week.

10. During early 1979, Respondent and his second wife, at the request of the Baltimore County Department of Social Services, permitted Patient B, then eighteen years old, to move into his residence at 2110 Dulaney Valley Road, Lutherville, Maryland.
11. During this period, the Respondent continued to treat Patient B for several sessions.
12. Patient B moved out of Respondent's residence in 1980. The Respondent began treating her again with individual therapy in September 1980 and continued to treat her until April 1981.
13. During that time, patient B changed her last name to Meehling and the Respondent made no objection to her doing so.
14. During early 1988, Patient A decided to file a complaint against Respondent with the Board.
15. Subsequently, Respondent met with a third patient (Patient C) and discussed the Board's investigation with her.
16. Years before, Patient C and her husband sought marriage counselling from the Respondent. Subsequently, Patient C separated from her husband and continued individual therapy sessions with the Respondent.
17. Therapy sessions with Patient C ended in May of 1984. She was not seen or treated thereafter but within a short period of time, approximately three months, while

Patient C was still a patient according to the Guidelines of the American Psychological Association, Respondent and Patient C had sexual intercourse at a Holiday Inn in Baltimore.

18. With respect to Patient A, Respondent participated in dual relationships that constituted unprofessional behavior.
19. With respect to Patient B, Respondent committed unprofessional conduct in the practice of psychology by acting as her therapist during a time when she resided at his home as a member of his family.
20. With respect to Patient C, Respondent committed unethical conduct by having sexual intercourse with a patient.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board finds that Respondent violated Article 43, §635 of the Annotated Code of Maryland by committing unprofessional conduct as defined by the rules established by the Board under COMAR 10.36.01.09C (adopting the Ethical Standards of Psychologists) as follows:

Principle 8 (1972 Revision). "Client Relationship. (c). The psychologist does not normally enter into a professional relationship with members of his own family, intimate friends, close associates, or others whose welfare might be jeopardized by such a dual relationship."

Principle 3 (1972 Revision). "Moral and Legal Standards. The psychologist in the practice of his profession shows sensible regard for the social codes and moral expectations of the community in which he works, recognizing that violations of accepted moral and legal standards on his part may involve his clients, students, or colleagues in damaging personal conflicts, and impugn his own name and the reputation of his profession."

Principle 6 (1977 Revision). "Welfare of the Consumer. (a) Psychologists are continually cognizant of their own needs and of their inherently powerful position vis a vis clients, in order to avoid exploiting their trust and dependency. Psychologists make every effort to avoid dual relationships which might impair their professional judgment or increase the risk of client exploitation. Examples of such dual relationships include treating employees, supervisees, close friends or relatives. Sexual intimacies with clients are unethical."

The Board also finds, based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, that the Respondent violated §16-312(7) (violates the code of ethics adopted by the Board under 16-311 of this subtitle,) by violating principles (6) and (7) of the American Psychological Association's Code of Ethics, as adopted by the Board in COMAR 10.36.01.09A. The portions of these principles applicable to Respondent's conduct are:

Principle 6 (1982 Revision). "Welfare of the Consumer. (a) Psychologists are continually cognizant of their

own needs and of their potentially influential position vis-a-vis persons such as clients, students and subordinates. They avoid exploiting the trust and dependency of such persons.

Psychologists make every effort to avoid dual relationships which could impair their professional judgment or increase the risk of exploitation. Sexual intimacies with clients are unethical."

Principle 7 (1982 Revision). "Professional Relationships. Preamble: Psychologists act with due regard for the needs, special competencies and obligations of their colleagues in psychology and other professions.... (d) Psychologists do not exploit their professional relationships with clients, supervisees, students, employees, or research participants sexually or otherwise."

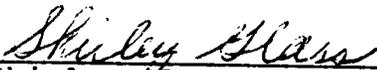
"Examples of such dual relationships include but are not limited to research with and treatment of employees, students, supervisees, close friends or relatives."

The Board also finds, based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, that the Respondent violated §16-312(16), "Behaves immorally in the practice of psychology."

CONSENT ORDER

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 1ST day of NOVEMBER, 1989

ORDERED by the Board of Examiners of Psychologists that the license of Oscar Meehling, Ph.D., an individual licensed to practice psychology in Maryland is hereby **REVOKED**.



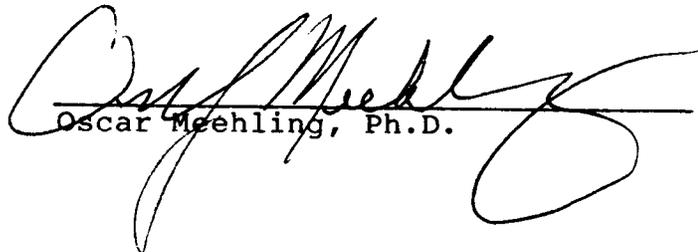
Shirley Glass, Ph.D.
Chair, Board of Examiners of
Psychologists

CONSENT

By this Consent, I hereby submit to the entry of the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and submit to the foregoing Order and its conditions. I am represented by Gerard P. Martin, Esquire, and I have consulted with him before signing this order. I acknowledge the validity of the Order as if made after a hearing in which I would have had the right to counsel, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my own behalf, and to all other substantive and procedural protections provided by law. I am entering into this Consent for the purpose of resolving the charges initiated by the Maryland State Board of Psychologists against my license and neither admit nor deny any Finding of Fact contained in this document. I also recognize that I am waiving my right pursuant to Health Occupations Article, §16-314 and the Administrative Procedure Act, State Government Article, §10-215 to take a judicial appeal from the revocation ordered by the Board. I understand that this revocation means that I may not counsel others in any manner

defined as the practice of psychology by §16-101 of the Health Occupations Article.

I sign this Order without reservation, and I fully understand its meaning.


Oscar Meehling, Ph.D.

STATE OF
CITY/COUNTY OF Baltimore

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 18th day of July, 1989, before me, a Notary Public of the State and City/County aforesaid, personally appeared Oscar Meehling and made oath in due form of law that his agreement to the foregoing Consent Order was his voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESSETH by hand and notarial seal.


Notary Public



My Commission Expires: 7-1-90