

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS (LABSWE)**

**IN THE MATTER OF
ERIKA LEE BABBITT
LICENSE No. 8569**

**LABSWE COMPLAINT
NUMBER 2006-141**

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

WHEREAS, Erika Lee Babbitt is a credentialed social worker subject to the jurisdiction and rules and regulations of the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners (the Board); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to a complaint and administrative investigation, the social worker, Erika Lee Babbitt, has indicated her desire to resolve this matter through a Consent Agreement and Order as provided for in Rule No. 907 of the Board's Rules, Standards and Procedures and LA R.S. 49:955(D) of the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act; and

WHEREAS, the social worker, Erika Lee Babbitt, has admitted the following:

1. Ms. Babbitt is and at all times pertinent to the facts and matters alleged herein, a Graduate Social Worker (MSW) credentialed by the Board to engage in the practice of social work in the State of Louisiana pursuant to the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act, LA R.S. 37:2701 et seq., as evidenced by License No. 8569.
2. At all times pertinent hereto, Ms. Babbitt was actively engaged in the practice of social work as a nursing facility social worker.

3. That during the time period from December 27, 2005 through May 13, 2006, Ms. Babbitt worked at Acadian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and conducted Intakes, Discharge Planning, Counseling, and Community Resource Referrals.
4. That Ms. Babbitt provided a verbal resignation on May 14, 2006 and followed it up with an e-mail resignation on the same day.
5. That Ms. Babbitt admitted to Craig Meier and Gloria Meier, complaint investigation officers for the Board, and further admits to this Board that she conducted clinical and therapeutic counseling sessions with a 50 year-old male resident of Acadian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, utilizing Rogerian and Cognitive Behavioral methodologies.
6. That the identified resident's diagnoses included Schizophrenia, Bipolar Disorder, Depression, Dementia and Syphills.
7. That Ms. Babbitt's assessment on February 16-22, 2006 indicated the above resident experienced short and long term memory disruptions, was moderately impaired in his decision-making, has periods of altered perceptions and is socially inappropriate. Ms. Babbitt reported the resident made significant progress since February 2006.
8. That Ms. Babbitt accepted the above resident's proposal for marriage on May 11, 2006 in the nursing facility's parking lot.
9. That Ms. Babbitt told the above resident personal information about her life and her former boyfriend's life.

10. That Ms. Babbitt gave the above identified resident a ring, approximate value of \$36-\$40, on May 12, 2006.
11. That Ms. Babbitt gave the same resident over \$300 in new clothing and other personal care items May 12-13, 2006 because he lacked them.
12. That Ms. Babbitt gave the same resident color-coded keys to her home on May 13, 2006.
13. That Ms. Babbitt drove the above resident to her home, at his request, on the afternoon of Friday, May 12, 2006, and drove him back to Acadian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, against his request, on Sunday, May 14, 2006.
14. That Ms. Babbitt had oral and vaginal sex, primarily vaginal sex, with the same resident multiple times at her home May 12-13, 2006 at his request.
15. That Ms. Babbitt was in bed with the resident, at Acadia Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, on May 17, 2006 with her clothes off and her pajamas on. While in bed, Ms. Babbitt kissed the resident on his lower abdomen and the resident kissed her breasts at his initiation.
16. That Ms. Babbitt intends to marry the above resident if he wished to marry her.
17. That Ms. Babbitt initially informed the above resident she could not become involved in a personal relationship with him since she was his social worker at the time in question.

WHEREAS, by having a sexual relationship with a clinical/therapeutic client, Ms. Babbitt has violated her professional and ethical duty as set out in

Louisiana Social Work Practice Act LA R.S. 37: 2717(A)(12) by exhibiting conduct which demonstrates the social worker has failed to maintain the qualifications of good moral character.

WHEREAS, by having a sexual relationship with a clinical/therapeutic client, Ms. Babbitt has violated her professional and ethical duty that a social worker shall not engage in or request sexual contact, as defined in Rule 113(B)(5), as set out in Rule 113(B)(3) of the Rules, Standards and Procedures for Louisiana social workers; and exhibited conduct by either act or omission involving a legal or professional duty about which the social worker displays conscious indifference and where the consequences of such conduct could adversely affect the rights or welfare of those persons to whom the social worker owes the duty as set out in Rule 301 of the Rules, Standards and Procedures for Louisiana social workers; which actions do constitute unethical conduct and pursuant to Rule 105 is a violation of LA R.S.37:2717(A)(5) of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act.

WHEREAS by providing gifts of a ring, clothing and keys to her home to the above resident, Ms. Babbitt has violated her professional and ethical duty that a social worker shall not give or exchange inappropriate gifts, gratuitous services, or personal items between the social worker and the client, as set out in Rule 113(A)(7) of the Rules, Standards and Procedures for Louisiana social workers, which failure does constitute unethical conduct and pursuant to Rule 105 is a violation of LA R.S.37:2717(A)(5) of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act.

WHEREAS by divulging personal information about her life to the above client, Ms. Babbitt has violated her professional and ethical duty that a social worker shall not inappropriately disclose aspects of the social worker's life or personal problems, as set out in Rule 113(A)(1) of the Rules, Standards and Procedures for Louisiana social workers, which failure does constitute unethical conduct and pursuant to Rule 105 is a violation of LA R.S.37:2717(A)(5) of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act.

WHEREAS, the credentialed social worker has indicated her desire to resolve this matter through this Consent Agreement and Order; and

WHEREAS the undersigned Attorney handling the prosecution of this Complaint has conducted an interview with the respondent who has indicated her desire to resolve this matter through this Consent Agreement and Order;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that in consideration of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by LA R.S. 49:955(D), the Board orders and Erika Lee Babbitt accepts the following administrative action which is a final decision pursuant to the LA R.S. 49:958:

1. That Ms. Babbitt's Social Work credential shall be revoked and she may not (re)apply for a Social Work credential for a period of ten (10) years from the date all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order. If Ms. Babbitt reapplies after ten (10) years, she shall successfully meet all requirements for the credential she applies for, including successfully (re)taking/passing all examinations.

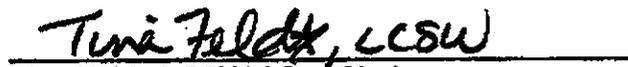
2. That Ms. Babbitt shall surrender her Social Work credentials/certificates to the Board at the time all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order.
3. Ms. Babbitt shall pay the costs of investigation in the amount of One Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-One and 81/100 dollars (\$1,621.81) within two (2) years that all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order. The payments shall be equally distributed in eight (8) payments.
4. By agreeing to the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order, Ms. Babbitt waives all rights to appeal this adjudication.

THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER is a matter of public record for violation of the above referenced sections of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act and the Rules, Standards and Procedures. The terms of this Consent Agreement and Order may be published and reported, including but not limited to, the LABSWE Newsletter.

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IN WITNESS THEREOF, the Louisiana State Board of Social Work
Examiners has entered into this Consent Agreement and Order and executed
same at Baton Rouge, Louisiana on this the 22nd day of September, 2006.

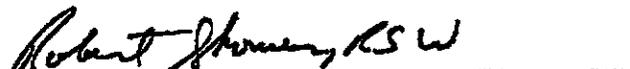

Jacqueline R. Shellington, LCSW, Chair


Tina Feldt, LCSW, Vice-Chair


Lola C. Coleman, LCSW, Secretary/Treasurer

Joseph Bodenmiller, LCSW, Board Member

Jeanette Jennings, PhD. GSW, Board Member


Robert Showers, RSW, Board Member

I, Erika Lee Babbitt, GSW, do hereby acknowledge, accept and agree to entry of the above Consent Agreement and Order. My signature acknowledges my understanding that this Consent Agreement and Order is a final decision of the Board and is a public record which evidences the resolution of Complaint No. 2006-141. I hereby waive any and all legal, procedural, or judicial remedies, appeals, or relief which might be available under the Administrative Procedures Act, and the statutory and procedural rules of the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners.

Erika Lee Babbitt 9/18/06
Erika Lee Babbitt Date

I, Charles H. Braud, Jr., Prosecutor, do hereby acknowledge negotiation and preparation of this Consent Agreement and Order in order to resolve, with prejudice, all matters for which the social worker, Erika Lee Babbitt, could be charged under Complaint No. 2006-141; and further certify that this Consent Agreement and Order is consistent with the evidence, adequately addresses the complaint and represents a true and correct statement of that which could be proven at a hearing of this matter.

Charles H. Braud, Jr. 9/18/06
Charles H. Braud, Jr. Date
Prosecutor