



Disciplinary Decision Summary

Decision

On May 29, 2019, a Conduct Review Panel (the "Panel") determined that Lauren Johnson, RCC (the "Member"), engaged in an inappropriate personal and sexual relationship with a client between April 9, 2015, and July 2015, contrary to the BCACC Bylaws. The Panel issued a decision on penalty on June 9, 2019.

Background

The Member had contact with a client outside of therapy sessions on April 4, 2015. Their professional relationship ended on April 8, 2015. The Member commenced a sexual relationship with the former client on April 11, 2015, which ended in July 2015.

The Member acknowledged during the hearing that she was aware that the BCACC Code of Ethical Conduct prohibits sexual and other intimate personal relationships with former clients for a minimum of two years following the cessation of the professional relationship. She admitted discussing the prohibition with the client before the sexual relationship started.

The Panel found the Member deliberately violated the Code of Ethical Conduct in a way that represents one of the most serious types of discipline violations that can be committed by a registered clinical counselor.

Engaging in a sexual relationship with a former patient/client is an egregious betrayal of trust that puts the client at risk and harms the public's perception of the reputation of the profession.

The Penalty

The Panel ordered the suspension of the Member's membership for six (6) months. Upon expiration of the suspension, the Member must:

1. Practice as a Registered Clinical Counsellor only under supervision, at her own cost, for a period of one year, with the clinical supervisor to be approved by the Inquiry Committee.
2. Meet at least monthly with the approved supervisor and develop a plan to identify the dynamics that contributed to her ethical misconduct and to review her client list.
3. Provide monthly written reports to the Registrar.
4. Pay \$12,535.98 to the BCACC for hearing costs.

As the Member did not reinstate her membership with BCACC for the 2020 renewal period, the requirements remain outstanding.