

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY
CENTER FOR PROFESSIONAL BOARDS AND LICENSING
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY**

**IN THE MATTER OF: FRANCIS R. SPARADEO
LICENSEE NO.: PS00241
COMPLAINT ID #: C23-0357, C23-1189, C23-1254**

CONSENT ORDER

Pursuant to R. I. Gen. Laws §5-44-1, *et seq.*, the Board of Psychology (the "Board") has investigated Complaint No. C23-0357 (the "Complaint") and has charged Frances R. Sparadeo, Licensee No. PS00241 ("Respondent") with violations of R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-44-18 and 216-RICR-40-05-15. After review and consideration by the Board with respect to the allegations of unprofessional conduct of Respondent, the following are and shall constitute:

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Respondent is a psychologist licensed to practice in the State of Rhode Island, License Number PS00241.
2. At all times relevant hereto, Respondent was employed at Sparadeo and Associates, 207 Quaker Lane, West Warwick, RI, and engaged in the practice of psychology in the State of Rhode Island.
3. On or about February 25, 2020, Respondent was issued a ratified Reprimand Consent Order for failure to deliver a report in a timely manner.
4. Between September 2021 through November 2021, Respondent performed psychological evaluations on Client A.
5. On or about February 1, 2022, Respondent advised Client A that it would take Respondent six (6) to eight (8) weeks to draft and submit the written report detailing the evaluation.
6. On or about April 18, 2023, RIDOH received a Complaint (C23-0357) from Client A that Respondent had not provided the written evaluation.
7. In a response letter dated October 2, 2023, Respondent admitted that the evaluation report was sent on April 24, 2023, over one (1) year later.
8. On or about August 7, 2023, Respondent conducted an intake evaluation on Client B.
9. In or about August/September 2023, Respondent failed to schedule Client B for a psychological evaluation.

10. On or about November 28, 2023, RIDOH received a Complaint (C23-1189) alleging Respondent did not provide adequate communication to Client B regarding changes in office location and appointments.
11. In a response letter dated January 1, 2024, Respondent stated the office underwent a move and construction and staffing failed to communicate and schedule appointments in a timely manner.
12. Between April and July 2023, Respondent performed psychological evaluations on Client C.
13. On or about July 12, 2023, Client C was advised that a written report detailing the evaluation would be provided soon thereafter.
14. On or about December 11, 2023, RIDOH received a Complaint (C23-1254) from Client C that Respondent had not provided the written evaluation.
15. In a response letter dated January 18, 2024, Respondent stated he completed a written report on October 10, 2023, and his clerical staff failed to send to Client C as instructed.
16. Respondent's conduct described herein constitutes unprofessional conduct, in violation of R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-44-18(5) and Standard 6.03 of the American Psychological Association Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct, as adopted by the Board.

ACCORDINGLY AND BASED ON THE FOREGOING

17. Respondent admits to the findings of fact and conclusions of law in paragraphs 1-16.
18. Respondent admits to the jurisdiction of the Board and hereby agrees to remain under the jurisdiction of the Board.
19. Respondent has read this Consent Order and understands this Consent Order shall become binding upon execution by Respondent and the Board.
20. Respondent understands the purpose of this Consent Order is solely to resolve the Complaint and constitutes an agreement between Respondent and the Board.
21. Respondent acknowledges that the Board intends to rely upon Respondent's compliance with these terms and conditions as an inducement to enter into this Consent Order.
22. Respondent hereby acknowledges and waives:
 - a) The right to have an administrative hearing on this matter;
 - b) The right to represent oneself or be represented by an attorney of Respondent's own choosing at said hearing;
 - c) The right to present testimony, evidence and witnesses on Respondent's behalf;
 - d) The right to cross-examine witnesses presented by the Board;
 - e) The right to further procedural steps except for those specifically contained herein;

- f) The right to take an appeal from the terms of this Consent Order; and
- g) Any objection that this Consent Order will (i) be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank, (ii) become a permanent part of Respondent's record maintained by RIDOH and a part of the public record of this proceeding, or (iii) be posted on RIDOH's public website.

SANCTION

- 23. The Board and Respondent hereby agree that Respondent is hereby issued the sanction of a Probation, beginning the day this Consent Order is executed (the "Effective Date").
- 24. Commencing with the Effective Date, Respondent's psychology license shall be subject to a period of "active probation" for a term of one (1) year (the "Probation Period").
- 25. During the Probation Period, Respondent shall create an Informed Consent document for the Board's approval to be distributed to clients, which details and specifies the timeframe that Respondent will deliver written reports to clients. The expected timeframe is to be communicated at the time of intake and reiterated in the appointments.
- 26. During the Probation Period, Respondent shall obtain an independent monitor for the Board's approval to confirm if the client's written reports are delivered as specified.
- 27. Respondent's monitor shall complete (four) 4 *Monitor Reporting Forms*.
- 28. Respondent shall submit evidence to the Board via DOH.PRCOMPLIANCE@health.ri.gov on a quarterly basis that *Monitoring Reporting Forms* have been completed.
- 29. The Probationary Period shall abate for the duration of any period in which Respondent ceases to practice psychology or be employed as a psychologist.
- 30. Respondent shall notify the Board of any lapse in employment during the Probation Period.
- 31. Respondent shall provide the Board with the names and addresses of the new employer(s) and the reasons for such changes.
- 32. Upon satisfaction of all requirements during the Probation Period, Respondent may apply to the Board for an unrestricted license to practice as a psychologist. At the next scheduled Board meeting, the Board will review to determine if Respondent is eligible to be relieved from Probation.
- 33. Any violation of, or failure to adhere to, the terms of this Consent Order shall constitute unprofessional conduct and subject Respondent to further disciplinary action at the discretion of the Board, including but not limited to Suspension or Revocation.


FRANCIS R. SPARADEO
LICENSEE NO.: PS00241


PETER OPPENHEIMER, BOARD CHAIR
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY

Date Signed:
8/1/2024

Date Signed:
10/24/24