

my file

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE UNLICENSED :
PRACTICE OF :
:
:
Jill Soderman, LCSW :
License #SL4258 :
81 West Shore Trail :
Sparta, New Jersey 07871 :
:
File #34-72-03-1669 :

Affidavit

STATE OF NEW JERSEY)
 ss
COUNTY OF ESSEX)

I, Ellen Pleickhardt, of full age, being duly sworn according to law, upon my oath, depose and say:

1. I am employed by the State of New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Consumer Affairs, Enforcement Bureau, 124 Halsey Street, Newark, NJ 07101.
2. My employment designation is Investigator II.
3. On August 11, 2003, I received an assignment which requested that a covert investigation of Jill Soderman be conducted to determine if she is practicing although her professional license was suspended in July 2003.
4. On August 12, 2003 at approximately 9:25am and 2:15pm, I telephoned (973)908-8284, which is Ms. Soderman's Oak Ridge, New Jersey telephone number and received an answering machine message. The message, which was recorded by a woman, only identified the number and asked the caller to leave a message. I left messages identifying myself as Ellen Parker and provided a covert

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telephone number during both telephone calls.

5. On August 13, 2003, at approximately 6:46pm Ms. Soderman left a voice mail message in response to the messages I had left for her on August 12, 2003. Ms. Soderman initially identified herself as "Jill Soderman" and then said "Dr. Soderman." Ms. Soderman stated that she would try calling again and provided (973) 729-5196 as her telephone number.

6. On August 13, 2003, from approximately 7:05pm to 7:25pm, I received a telephone call from a woman who identified herself as Jill Soderman. In response, I asked if she was "Dr. Soderman." The woman answered "Yes," and began to ask about my personal problems and how I learned about her. I explained that I had recently divorced my husband, who had an affair. I felt alone because my sons live in San Diego and I have been staying with friends and cannot seem to motivate myself to get my life together and find a place to live. I further explained that my friend, Debbie, had found information on the Internet about some sort of conference held about a year ago that I believed had been sponsored by several attorneys and included her (Soderman) in the program. Ms. Soderman said that she speaks at many conferences and asked if I had any more information about the conference. When I said that I did not have the information with me, but recalled that the conference was held in Branchville, New Jersey, Ms. Soderman said the conference was sponsored by "F.I.T.-Families in Transition." I went on to say that my friend had urged me to attend the conference last year but I was too upset to attend because my divorce was "nasty."

Because my friend has continued to urge me to obtain help and I noted that the Internet information listed Ms. Soderman in Oak Ridge, I subsequently obtained her telephone listing and hoped she was the same person. Ms. Soderman said that her Oak Ridge home/office burned down last year and as a result she moved to a rental home in Sparta, New Jersey. However in June 2003, she moved to another home in Sparta located at 81 West Shore Trail. She provided her Sparta phone number and explained that calls from her Oak Ridge telephone number are "remote call forwarded" to Sparta. [It should be noted that I had obtained Ms. Soderman's former and current addresses from the Sparta Post Office.] She provided directions to her home and said that the front door would be open and just

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come in.

During our conversation I addressed Ms. Soderman with the title of "Doctor" several times and was not corrected. When she offered to see me, I asked if she was available at about noon the next day. Ms. Soderman offered a 10:30am appointment and explained that she and her daughter had to be at Pope John High School, Sparta at noon and then she had to be at the Morris County Detention Center at 1:00pm. I told her that I would try to get there at 10:30pm and would call if I would be late or could not make it. She asked why I had a problem with that time. I explained that I have had great difficulty sleeping at night and have been sleeping most mornings. In response, Ms. Soderman said that I was "depressed" and explained that there are different types of depression. After stating how difficult things have been, I asked if she could help me and how much she charged for her services. Ms. Soderman said that she recommends a minimum of three (3) sessions and charges \$150.00 per visit. She indicated that there are ways to overcome depression and I could not do it without help.

7. On August 14, 2003, at approximately 10:25am, while Investigator John Musiello maintained surveillance, I arrived at Ms. Soderman's home and found the front door open and the screen/storm door unlocked. After ringing the bell and calling inside without getting a response, I entered the lake style house dining room and heard a man and a woman talking from the direction of the adjacent living room. I took Ms. Soderman's last business card from a dish near the front window. As I looked through the living room archways, to the right of the front door, I saw a woman reclining on a love seat against the wall of a small room just beyond the living room. During their discussion, I overheard the man address the woman as "Jill" while talking about his relationship problems. At approximately 10:30am, while escorting the man to the dining room, Ms. Soderman spoke about the aspects of a dysfunctional family. They tentatively scheduled his next visit for an evening later that week, which he would later confirm by telephone. As the man, who was about fifty (50) years old, approximately five (5) feet eight (8) inches tall, bald, trim build with broad shoulders and casually dressed, left through the front door, Ms. Soderman greeted me and invited me into her office, the room with the love seat. She sat and later reclined on the love seat during my

Was this conversation recorded?

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visit. As we walked toward her office, her phone rang, as it did several times during the session. Her first conversation concerned a report she had drafted and promised to re-write and complete soon. Another call seemed to be from a concerned relative of a patient. I sat in one (1) of the two (2) chairs against the left wall of the room. There were many certificates covering the available wall space. Her New Jersey professional license was on a board and displayed on the desk to the right.

Ms. Soderman
PLD

Ms. Soderman, who had dark straight short hair, appeared to be about fifty (50) years old, approximately five (5) feet four (4) inches tall, heavy set and casually dressed. Ms. Soderman did not ask me to complete a patient history form, nor did she take notes during our meeting.

The session began at about 10:40am with questions about my marital problems, family, and how long I had been feeling depressed. After discussing the problems of my twenty-five (25) years of marriage and approximate one (1) year of feeling depressed, Ms. Soderman asked if I had a doctor because I needed to take Zoloft (PLD) for my depression. She explained that the medication, which is very effective and would begin working in a day or two (2), would also help my insomnia. She offered to call Alexander Prezioso, M.D., a physician that she has asked to prescribe Zoloft for her patients. Ms. Soderman explained the benefits of the drug and need to begin taking the lowest dose of 25mg and possibly increase to the higher dosage of 100mg as needed. She said that I would not resolve my depression, which appeared to be a hormone problem in my brain, without the medication. She also said that if I preferred to see a physician other than the one Ms. Soderman recommended, she would gladly speak with that doctor about prescribing Zoloft, but asked that I provide the doctor with written authorization. She noted that Zoloft had minimal side effects and preferred it over most of the newer antidepressants. I said that I would think about calling a doctor and asked for Dr. Prezioso's business card. She did not have his card, but wrote the following information on a piece of pink paper and gave it to me:

"Dr. Alexander Prezioso [sic]-MD
973-663-2022
Rte 15 So.-Hopatcon-[sic]"

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I also asked for her business card. She left the room and when she returned she said she discovered there were none left in the dining room and told me she had to have more printed as well as her stationery, with her new address.

I asked if she would be providing therapy while I took Zoloft and how long would I need to see her. She could not estimate how much therapy I would need, but explained that therapy consisted of talking about my problems while also taking the medication. Several times during the session Ms. Soderman said things that caused me concern which included telling me that I would become more and more depressed if I did not take Zoloft. She also told me that I would not ever become a functioning, independent person again if I did not take Zoloft. Just before leaving, Ms. Soderman suggested that I have my friend Debbie call her later that day. Ms. Soderman said that she believed I would not remember what we had discussed, and therefore, she would tell Debbie what is needed to overcome my depression.

I told her that my sons had some difficulty dealing with the divorce and asked if she would want to speak with them at some time. ~~I~~ prefaced this with her mentioning her appointment scheduled later that day at the Morris County Detention Center and asked if she saw young adults. Ms. Soderman explained that she is a forensic psychologist and evaluates prisoners and juveniles for the courts "all over," which included Morris, Sussex and Passaic Counties.

I gave Ms. Soderman \$150.00 in cash for the session and requested a receipt. She explained that her stationery contained her previous Sparta address, which she crossed out and then wrote her new address. The receipt was not dated nor did it contain a diagnosis or patient name. Ms. Soderman signed her name without any titles and wrote: "Consultation, \$150 Pd." However, her letterhead still contains, "PhD. Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy." Because I told her that I was not certain that I had insurance coverage, I asked if she would submit claims for me. Ms. Soderman said that she would complete claims with the diagnosis and fees, but I would have to submit them for reimbursement.

I left at approximately 11:40am and traveled to a nearby location where I met with Inv. Musiello and recorded my

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recollection of the covert visit.

8. The original business card, the information about Dr. Prezioso, and the receipt are identified on Enforcement Bureau Evidence Voucher No. 093-03-34 as Item Nos. 1 through 3 respectively, and are being maintained in Evidence Storage. Photocopies of these items are attached and marked Exhibit Nos. 1 through 3, respectively.

I swear that all of the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

Ellen Pleickhardt
Ellen Pleickhardt, Investigator

Sworn and subscribed to before me:

this 2nd Day of August, 2003

Jean E. Murphy

JEAN MURPHY
NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY
My Commission Expires Sept. 22, 2006

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