



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, DC

Office Of The Secretary

May 23, 2018

SAF/LL
1160 Air Force Pentagon
Washington DC 20330

The Honorable Michael Bennet
United States Senator
409 North Tejon Street, Suite 107
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Dear Senator Bennet:

This is in response to your follow up inquiry on behalf of Specialist Adam DeRito regarding his concern related to entries made in his medical record after his departure from the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA).

Specifically, Specialist DeRito contends an improper entry was made in his medical record by a mental health provider he never met, and that the entry was made in 2011 even though he left USAFA in 2010. As a result of your inquiry, the 10th Medical Group Deputy Commander at USAFA reviewed Specialist DeRito's mental health record for any improprieties.

Please note, the documentation requirements in 2010 for electronic medical records maintained in the Armed Forces Health Longitudinal Technology Application (AHLTA) system included inserting a brief note with relevant information to inform other providers who might be providing care to the patient. Air Force Mental Health Clinics, therefore, kept separate, hard copy records for each patient with more detailed information, including any psychological testing that may have been completed.

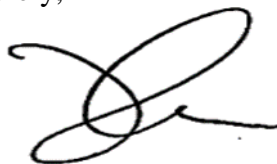
The record review revealed that Specialist DeRito voluntarily agreed to be seen by Captain Kristen Henley, an Air Force clinical psychologist stationed at USAFA, for one session on May 12, 2010. During this appointment, he completed a comprehensive clinical interview and psychological testing to assess his risk to himself or others, and to provide feedback to his command of this risk level. In the hard copy mental health record, Captain Henley annotated a diagnosis of "Impulse Control Disorder, Not Otherwise Specified" and "Personality Disorder Not Otherwise Specified with Narcissistic, Antisocial, Paranoid, and Obsessive-Compulsive Personality Traits Present." This diagnosis was based on information gathered in the interview, psychological testing, and other collateral information provided by his commander and student counseling center therapist, Major Troy. While brief notes from the interview and psychological testing were included in AHLTA, the diagnosis was only listed in the mental health record.

On June 20, 2011, Captain Henley (now married and using the name Kristin Henley Price) entered a note in both the mental health record and AHLTA to close the record; in the note, she summarized the May 2010 appointment and diagnoses, stated Specialist DeRito had been separated from USAFA, and confirmed no follow-up care was planned. While that particular requirement has since changed, Captain Henley acted according to the procedures outlined in Air Force Instruction 44-172, *Mental Health*, at that time. Because Captain Henley's AHLTA note was administrative in nature, no patient contact was necessary. It is unclear why Captain Henley did not initially put the diagnoses in the AHLTA note after the appointment with Specialist DeRito on May 12, 2010; however, the diagnoses and medical notes are clearly documented in the hard copy mental health record from that time.

Changing or removing any medical notes at this time, over seven years later, would be inappropriate because the Air Force contends the information contained in the mental health record was correct; altering a provider's evaluation without evidence that the standard of care was not met would be considered malpractice. If Specialist DeRito believes these diagnoses were in error, he is advised to schedule a new evaluation with a mental health professional at his current installation's Mental Health Clinic; that person will be able to provide an opinion and recommendation based on his current diagnostic picture and its implications for his application to serve as a Warrant Officer. Additionally, as we previously explained in our response on April 11, 2018, Specialist DeRito can file an application with the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR) if he believes an error or injustice has been committed.

We trust this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. White', with a stylized flourish at the end.

THOMAS W. WHITE, Colonel, USAF
Chief, Congressional Correspondence Division
Office of Legislative Liaison