

## **Nurse/Therapist: Patient Awarded Damages Over Improper Sexual Relationship.**

A female client sued her male nurse/clinician for malpractice.

The client's lawsuit hinged on expert testimony from a clinical psychologist that the nurse/clinician took advantage of paternal transference she developed toward him in therapy and encouraged her to start up a sexual relationship with him.

The nurse/clinician denied any sexual relationship. He claimed the patient's lawsuit was retaliation against him for terminating therapy. He also brought in a forensic psychiatrist who reportedly delved into the patient's history of making similar claims of abuse in other therapeutic contexts and against people in former workplaces.

A jury in the Superior Court, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, awarded the former client \$48,000. **Merrill v. Colbert, 2008 WL 2437663 (Sup. Ct. Middlesex Co., Massachusetts, March 10, 2008).**