

Ms. Zuercher completed the terms of her consent agreement as of 1/20/2015.

CSWMFTB

CONSENT AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN

2013 DEC 30 A 11:42

DEBORAH M. ZUERCHER  
AND THE

STATE OF OHIO COUNSELOR, SOCIAL WORKER, MARRIAGE AND  
FAMILY THERAPIST BOARD

This CONSENT AGREEMENT is entered into by and between DEBORAH M. ZUERCHER, hereinafter, "ZUERCHER," and the STATE OF OHIO COUNSELOR, SOCIAL WORKER, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST BOARD, hereinafter "BOARD," the state agency charged with enforcing Chapter 4757 of the Ohio Revised Code and all rules promulgated thereunder.

ZUERCHER hereby acknowledges that she has read and understands this CONSENT AGREEMENT and has voluntarily entered into it without threat or promise by the BOARD or any of its members, employees or agents.

ZUERCHER is fully aware of her rights, including her right to be advised by counsel and her right to a hearing pursuant to Chapter 119 of the Ohio Revised Code on the issues which are the subject of this CONSENT AGREEMENT.

This CONSENT AGREEMENT contains the entire agreement between the parties, based on the Board's investigation, there being no other agreement of any kind, verbal or otherwise, which varies the terms of this CONSENT AGREEMENT.

This CONSENT AGREEMENT is entered into on the basis of the following stipulations, admissions and understandings:

1. ZUERCHER is a professional counselor (C.0600146) licensed to practice counseling in the State of Ohio, and is subject to the laws and rules of Ohio regulating the practice of counseling as outlined in Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4757 and Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 4757. ZUERCHER received her professional counselor license on July 20, 2007.
2. In about 2011, ZUERCHER blurred her professional boundaries by entering into a sexual relationship with a current client of the agency where she was employed in Shelby, Ohio. ZUERCHER self-reported this to her agency in 2013. ZUERCHER'S actions constitute a violation of Ohio Revised Code Section 4757.36(A)(1) and Ohio Administrative Code Section 4757-5-04(A).
3. ZUERCHER admits the statements referenced in paragraph 2 above.

Wherefore, in consideration of the foregoing and mutual promises hereinafter set forth, and in lieu of any other formal disciplinary proceedings, ZUERCHER knowingly and voluntarily agrees with the BOARD to the following terms and conditions:

1. **ZUERCHER'S** license to practice counseling (C.0600146) is hereby suspended for one year beginning January 19, 2014.
2. **ZUERCHER** must receive personal counseling, twice a month, from a **BOARD** pre-approved mental health practitioner for a period of one (1) year. All costs associated with this counseling are at **ZUERCHER'S** expense. **ZUERCHER** must submit the name, contact information, and professional resume or vitae to the **BOARD'S** Deputy Director no later than February 1, 2014, to obtain pre-approval. Once approved, the practitioner will provide the **BOARD** with quarterly reports detailing issues discussed in counseling and other issues the practitioner deems appropriate. At the end of the one year mandated counseling period, the practitioner shall provide the **BOARD** with a report encompassing the overall counseling period. It is **ZUERCHER'S** responsibility to ensure the Board obtains the reports in a timely manner. **ZUERCHER** agrees that she will sign a release document, if required, so that the **BOARD** and the mental health practitioner can communicate on issues relating to this **CONSENT AGREEMENT** and the mandated counseling.

It is hereby agreed by and between both parties that this **CONSENT AGREEMENT** hereby settles all issues concerning this matter.

By her signature on this **CONSENT AGREEMENT**, **ZUERCHER** acknowledges that in the event the **BOARD**, in its discretion, does not approve this **CONSENT AGREEMENT**, this settlement offer is withdrawn and shall be of no evidentiary value and shall not be relied upon or introduced in any disciplinary action or appeal by either party. **ZUERCHER** agrees that should the **BOARD** reject this **CONSENT AGREEMENT** and if this case proceeds to hearing, she will assert no claim that the **BOARD** was prejudiced by its review and discussion of this **CONSENT AGREEMENT** or of any information relating thereto.

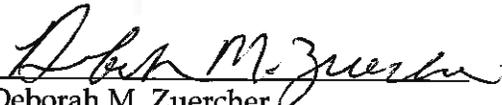
**ZUERCHER** hereby releases the members of the **BOARD**, its officers and employees, jointly and severally, from any and all liability arising from the matter within.

This **CONSENT AGREEMENT** shall be considered a public record as that term is used in Section 149.43 of the Ohio Revised Code. All parties to this Consent Agreement understand that this information will be sent to the United States Department of Health and Human Services' National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB), pursuant to Title IV of Public Law 99-660, the Healthcare Quality Improvement Act of 1986, as amended; Section 1921 of the Social Security Act; and Section 1128E of the Social Security Act, as amended by Section 221(a) of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. The **BOARD** shall incorporate this **CONSENT AGREEMENT** into a formal journal entry at its January 2014, meeting.

Consent Agreement between Deborah M. Zuercher and the State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist Board

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This CONSENT AGREEMENT shall take effect upon the date of the BOARD Chair's signature below:

  
Deborah M. Zuercher

12-26-13  
Date

  
Mary J. Venrick, LSW, LPC  
Chair, Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist Board

1-16-14  
Date