

Ms. Stephens completed the terms of the consent agreement as of 6/23/2006

CSWMFTB

CONSENT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
DARCY L. STEPHENS
AND THE
STATE OF OHIO COUNSELOR, SOCIAL WORKER, MARRIAGE AND
FAMILY THERAPIST BOARD

2005 SEP 15 P 2:08

This CONSENT AGREEMENT is entered into by and between DARCY L. STEPHENS, hereinafter, "STEPHENS," 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 therein.

STEPHENS 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.

STEPHENS 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. Should STEPHENS fail to comply with any provisions of this CONSENT AGREEMENT, STEPHENS knowingly waives her rights under ORC Chapter 119.

This CONSENT AGREEMENT contains the entire agreement between the parties, 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. STEPHENS is a professional clinical counselor (E-4130) 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. STEPHENS received her professional clinical counselor license on November 21, 2003.
2. STEPHENS was hired by The Recovery Center, Inc. of Lancaster Ohio on January 16, 2001 as a counselor/case manager. STEPHENS was assigned a client during the period from about February 2004 until September 2, 2004. On September 2, 2004, the client was transferred to another worker due to boundary concerns between STEPHENS and the client. This same day, on the evening of September 2, 2004, STEPHENS went to the client's residence to remind the client of a scheduled appointment. This conduct constitutes a violation of Ohio Revised Code Section 4757.36(A)(1) and the Ohio Administrative Code Section 4757-5-01C(1).

3. While in the same capacity, and during the same period, February 2004 to September 2004, **STEPHENS** gave the Client referred to in paragraph 2 gifts of clothes, books, toiletries, and poems. **STEPHENS** also loaned this client money that the client later reimbursed. This conduct constitutes violations of Ohio Revised Code Section 4757.36(A)(1) and Ohio Administrative Code Section 4757-5-01C(1).
4. **STEPHENS ADMITS** the allegations referenced in paragraphs 2-3 above.

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

1. **STEPHENS'** license to practice counseling is hereby **suspended** for one month from April 1, 2005, until April 30, 2005.
2. **STEPHENS** must receive mental health counseling from a **BOARD** pre-approved mental health practitioner for one year. All costs associated with this counseling are at **STEPHENS'** expense. **STEPHENS** must submit the name, contact information, and professional resume or vitae to the **BOARD'S** Deputy Director no later than March 31, 2005, to obtain pre-approval. Once approved, the mental health practitioner will provide the **BOARD** with bi-monthly reports entailing issues discussed in counseling, professional ethics and responsibilities discussion, and other issues the mental health practitioner deems appropriate. The first monthly report is due to the **BOARD** offices (comprising sessions in April and May) by June 5, 2005. At the end of the year's mandated counseling, the mental health practitioner shall provide the **BOARD** with a report encompassing the year of mental health counseling including areas of improvement, areas of concern (if any), and if in the mental health practitioner's professional opinion, **STEPHENS** is able to function properly as a professional clinical counselor.
3. After **STEPHENS** serves her suspension and returns to work as a counselor, she must receive face-to face supervision, by an individual pre-approved by the Board, one-hour every week for a period of 1 year. **STEPHENS** should not select a supervisor with which she has a prior relationship. If any previous relationship with the supervisor exists, **STEPHENS** must provide full disclosure of such a relationship in the request for supervisor approval. The 1-year supervision period will not begin until **STEPHENS'** supervisor is approved. Supervision should focus on, but not limited to, **STEPHENS'** role in professional relationships, ethical decision-making, and proper professional boundaries. **STEPHENS'** supervisor is required to submit a report to the Board, quarterly, detailing topics discussed during supervision sessions, areas of concern, and areas for improvement. At the end of the 1-year supervised period, **STEPHENS'** supervisor will make a final report encompassing the 1-year of supervision. If **STEPHENS'** supervisor is concerned with **STEPHENS'** practice at any time the

Board should be notified immediately. It is **STEPHENS'** responsibility to ensure that the Board receives the supervisor's reports. All costs associated with the supervision are at the expense of **STEPHENS**.

4. **STEPHENS** must take seven (7) hours of continuing education in the area of professional counselor ethics. These hours must be pre-approved by the Board's Deputy Director or his designee. After **STEPHENS** completes these hours, she must submit copies of the attendance certificates to the Board's Deputy Director. All costs associated with these hours are borne by **STEPHENS**. These hours cannot be used in furtherance of **STEPHENS'** renewal of her counseling license.

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**, **STEPHENS** 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. **STEPHENS** 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.

STEPHENS 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. Pursuant to 42 USC Section 132a-73(b), 5 USC Section 552a, 45 CFR part 61, and Ohio Revised Code Section 3123.41 et seq. the **BOARD** may be required to provide **STEPHENS'** social security number to requesting governmental agencies.

The **BOARD** shall incorporate this **CONSENT AGREEMENT** into a formal journal entry at its March 18, 2005, meeting.

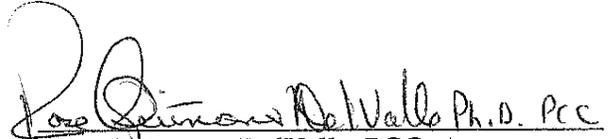
Consent Agreement between Darcy L. Stephens and the State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist Board

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



Darcy Stephens, PCC

3/15/05
Date



Rose Quinones-DelValle, Ph.D. PCC
Chair, Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist Board

3-18-05
Date



Elizabeth Y. Collis, Esq.
Counsel for Ms. Stephens

3/15/05
Date



Juliane E. Barone, Esq.
Assistant Attorney General
Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist Board

3-18-05
Date