

**CONSENT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
LAURA B. THOMPSON
AND THE
STATE OF OHIO COUNSELOR, SOCIAL WORKER, MARRIAGE AND
FAMILY THERAPIST BOARD**

This CONSENT AGREEMENT is entered into by and between LAURA B. THOMPSON, hereinafter, "THOMPSON," 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.

THOMPSON 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.

THOMPSON 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. THOMPSON is a licensed professional clinical counselor (E-0800270) 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. THOMPSON received her professional clinical counselor license on October 19, 2012.
2. Between about December 2014 through March 2015, THOMPSON entered into a personal romantic relationship with a former client that she had terminated with in November 2013. The Board's rules state that a licensed counselor must wait a minimum of 5 years from termination before engaging in a romantic relationship with a former client. THOMPSON'S actions constitute a violation of ORC 4757.36(C)(1) and OAC 4757-5-04(C).
3. THOMPSON admits the allegation 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, THOMPSON knowingly and voluntarily agrees with the BOARD to the following terms and conditions:

1. THOMPSON'S license to practice counseling (E.0800270) is suspended for 3 years beginning March 31, 2016. THOMPSON must continue to renew her license and complete all required continuing education if she intends to re-enter the counseling practice after her 3 years of suspension.
2. THOMPSON must receive personal counseling from a BOARD pre-approved mental health practitioner for a period of two (2) years during the period of her suspension. THOMPSON is required to meet with this mental health practitioner for a minimum of two (2) one hour sessions a month. All costs associated with this counseling are at THOMPSON'S expense. THOMPSON must submit the name, contact information, and professional resume or vitae to the BOARD'S Deputy Director in advance 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 two year mandated counseling period, the practitioner shall provide the BOARD with a report encompassing the overall counseling period. It is THOMPSON'S responsibility to ensure the Board obtains the reports in a timely manner.

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, THOMPSON 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. THOMPSON 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.

THOMPSON 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 March 2016, meeting.

Consent Agreement between Laura B. Thompson 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:

Laura B. Thompson, LCC
Laura B. Thompson, LPCC

02/15/2016
Date

Carrie M. Starts
Carrie Masters Starts, Esq.
Counsel for Ms. Thompson

2/15/2016
Date

Margaret A. Knerr, IMFT-S
Margaret A. Knerr, IMFT-S
Chair, Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist Board

3-17-16
Date

Melissa L. Wilburn
Melissa L. Wilburn, Esq.
Senior Assistant Attorney General

March 17, 2016
Date