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SEP 18 '99

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COUNSELOR AND SOCIAL  
WORKER BOARD

**CONSENT AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
HOWARD M. FRIEDMAN  
AND THE  
OHIO STATE COUNSELOR AND SOCIAL WORKER BOARD**

This CONSENT AGREEMENT is entered into and between HOWARD M. FRIEDMAN, hereinafter, "**FRIEDMAN**", and the OHIO STATE COUNSELOR AND SOCIAL WORKER BOARD, hereinafter "**BOARD**", the state agency charged with enforcing Chapter 4757 of the Ohio Revised Code and all rules promulgated thereunder.

**FRIEDMAN** hereby acknowledges that he 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.

**FRIEDMAN** is fully aware of his rights, including his right to be advised by counsel and his 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, 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. **FRIEDMAN** is a Licensed Independent Social Worker (I-2354) licensed to practice social work in the State of Ohio, and is subject to the laws and rules of Ohio regulating the practice of social work as outlined in Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4757.
2. On or about March 23, 1998, **FRIEDMAN** was found guilty in the Municipal Court of Akron, Summit County, Ohio, of sexual imposition, a third degree misdemeanor under Ohio Revised Code Section 2907.061, in that **FRIEDMAN** did have sexual contact with Person #1, a client of his. This was in the course of his therapeutic relationship with Person #1. Said conviction is a violation of Ohio Revised Code Section 4757.36 (A)(7).
3. **FRIEDMAN ADMITS** the allegation referenced in paragraph two (2) above.

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

- A. **FRIEDMAN** is prohibited from practicing social work in the State of Ohio as a private practitioner.
- B. **FRIEDMAN** may only practice social work in the State of Ohio as an employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs and his practice within the Department of Veterans Affairs can only be in a non-clinical setting. **FRIEDMAN** will be required to have his immediate supervisor file reports to the **BOARD** by November 1, 1998, December 1, 1998, and January 1, 1999. The written reports will consist of a description of **FRIEDMAN'S** professional activities at the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- C. **FRIEDMAN'S** license to practice social work in the State of Ohio (I-2354) is **REVOKED** effective February 1, 1999.

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

By his signature on this **CONSENT AGREEMENT**, **FRIEDMAN** 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. **FRIEDMAN** agrees that should the **BOARD** reject this **CONSENT AGREEMENT** and if this case proceeds to hearing, he will assert no claim that the **BOARD** was prejudiced by its review and discussion of this **CONSENT AGREEMENT** or of any information relating thereto.

**FRIEDMAN** 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.

The **BOARD** shall incorporate this CONSENT AGREEMENT into a formal journal entry at its September, 1998, meeting.

This CONSENT AGREEMENT shall take effect upon the last date of signature below:

THE OHIO COUNSELOR AND  
SOCIAL WORKER BOARD

Howard M. Friedman  
HOWARD M. FRIEDMAN

Robert L. Moore  
ROBERT L. MOORE  
Chairman, Ohio Counselor and Social Worker  
Board

9/15/98  
DATE

9-25-98  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Counsel for FRIEDMAN

Jonathan M. Bowman  
JONATHAN M. BOWMAN, ESQ.  
Assistant Attorney General  
Counselor and Social Worker Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

9-25-98  
DATE