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APR 19 '01

CONSENT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
M. BRUCE SMITH
AND THE
STATE OF OHIO COUNSELOR AND SOCIAL WORKER BOARD

This CONSENT AGREEMENT is entered into by and between M. BRUCE SMITH, hereinafter, "SMITH", and the STATE OF OHIO 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.

SMITH 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.

SMITH 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. Should **SMITH** fail to comply with any provisions of this CONSENT AGREEMENT, **SMITH** knowingly waives his 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. **SMITH** is an independent social worker (I-2996) 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. **SMITH** professionally saw Person #1 for two sessions at his office in Zanesville, Ohio, in September and October 1997. **SMITH** did not see Person #1 again until May 1998. In approximately June 1998, **SMITH** and Person #1 began dating. **SMITH** and Person #1 dated exclusively until October 2000 when they were married. This conduct of entering into a personal relationship with an ex-client within two (2) years following the conclusion of therapy constitutes a violation of Ohio Revised Code 4757.36(A) and Ohio Administrative Code 4757-5-01(D)(3).

3. **SMITH** admits the statements referenced in paragraphs 1 and 2 referenced above.

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

1. **SMITH** is hereby reprimanded by the **BOARD**. Such reprimand will be recorded in **SMITH'S** permanent licensure file with the **BOARD** for violating the Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Administrative Code Sections referenced in paragraph 2 above.

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**, **SMITH** 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. **SMITH** 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.

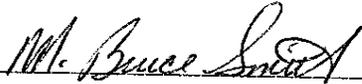
SMITH hereby releases the members of the **BOARD**, its officers and employees, jointly and severally, from any and all liability arising from the matter within.

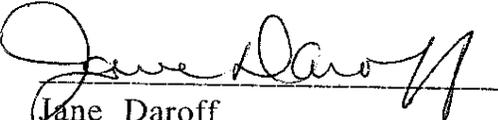
This CONSENT AGREEMENT shall be considered a public record as that term is used in Section 149.43 of the Ohio Revised Code. Pursuant to 42 USC Section 132a-73(b), 5 USC Section 552a, 45 CFR part 61 and Ohio Revised Code Section 2301.373(E), the **BOARD** may be required to provide **SMITH'S** social security number to requesting governmental agencies.

The **BOARD** shall incorporate this CONSENT AGREEMENT into a formal journal entry at its May 18, 2001, meeting.

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

THE OHIO COUNSELOR AND
SOCIAL WORKER BOARD


M. BRUCE SMITH

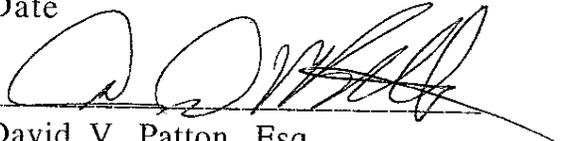

Jane Daroff
Chair, Counselor and Social Worker Board

4/17/01
Date

Counsel for Mr. Smith

Date

5/18/01
Date


David V. Patton, Esq.
Assistant Attorney General
Counselor and Social Worker Board

5/10/01
Date