

COPY

**CONSENT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
STEVEN T. THOMAS
AND THE
OHIO STATE COUNSELOR AND SOCIAL WORKER BOARD**

This CONSENT AGREEMENT is entered into by and between STEVEN T. THOMAS, hereinafter, "**THOMAS**", 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.

THOMAS 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.

THOMAS 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. **THOMAS** is an Independent Social Worker (I-3519) 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 O.R.C. Chapter 4757.
2. On June 30, 1997, **THOMAS** was employed at Portage Children's Center, Ravenna, Ohio, as an Independent Social Worker. On June 30, 1997, **THOMAS** was seeing a 13 year old male client and this client elbowed **THOMAS** in the ribs at which time **THOMAS** slapped the client across the face. **THOMAS** immediately apologized to the client and his mother. The client was not injured and required no medical attention. **THOMAS** was allowed to voluntarily resign from Portage Children's Center.
3. **THOMAS'S** actions constitute a violation of O.R.C. 4757.36(A)(1), O.A.C. 4757-21-01, and Appendix B: Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers Section I(D)(1) and Section II(F)(1).
4. **THOMAS ADMITS** the allegations referenced in paragraphs 2 and 3 referenced above.

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

- A. **THOMAS** is hereby **REPRIMANDED** by the **BOARD**. Such **REPRIMAND** will be recorded in **THOMAS'S** permanent licensure file with the **BOARD** for violating the Ohio Revised and Administrative Code sections referenced in paragraph 3 above.
- B. **THOMAS** must attend thirteen (13) hours of continuing education, at his expense, in the areas of Anger Management, Conflict Management, and/or How to Deal with Difficult Clients. Such courses/workshops must be preapproved by the Board and these hours will **NOT** be used toward the renewal of **THOMAS'S** LISW license. These 13 hours of continuing education must be completed by March 1, 1999. After **THOMAS** completes each workshop or course that will total the 13 hours, he will provide proof of attendance and the number of hours received by sending his certificate of attendance to the **BOARD** to the attention of the Investigative Supervisor.

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**, **THOMAS** 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. **THOMAS** 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.

THOMAS 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 March, 1998, meeting.

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

Steven T. Thomas
STEVEN T. THOMAS

THE OHIO COUNSELOR AND
SOCIAL WORKER BOARD

Robert Moore
Robert Moore
Chair, Counselor and Social Worker Board

February 14, 1998
DATE

20 MAR 98
DATE

Counsel for Steven T. Thomas

Jonathan M. Bowman March 20 1998
Jonathan M. Bowman
Assistant Attorney General
Counselor and Social Worker Board