

**CONSENT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
KAREN G. LEWIS
AND THE
STATE OF OHIO COUNSELOR, SOCIAL WORKER AND MARRIAGE AND
FAMILY THERAPIST BOARD**

This CONSENT AGREEMENT is entered into by and between KAREN G. LEWIS, hereinafter, "LEWIS," and the STATE OF OHIO COUNSELOR, SOCIAL WORKER AND 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.

LEWIS 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.

LEWIS 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, 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 stipulation, admission and understanding:

1. LEWIS is a licensed independent social worker and licensed independent marriage and family therapist (I.0009710 & F.0000054) licensed in the State of Ohio, and is subject to the laws and rules of Ohio regulating the practice of social work and marriage and family therapy as outlined in Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4757 and Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 4757. LEWIS received her independent social work license on March 21, 2003 and her independent marriage and family therapy license on April 6, 2004.
2. LEWIS, while employed in her private practice in Cincinnati, OH, beginning approximately November, 2012 through July 2013, failed to report the suspected abuse of a developmentally disabled client as mandated. This inappropriate conduct constitutes a violation of Ohio Revised Code Section 4757.36(C) (1) and Ohio Administrative Code Section 4757-5-10 (B) (5).
3. LEWIS, while employed in her private practice in Cincinnati, OH beginning approximately November, 2012 through July, 2013, failed to obtain a valid informed consent from the client or parent, guardian, or court appointed representative prior to commencing treatment. This

inappropriate conduct constitutes a violation of Ohio Revised Code Section 4757.36(C) (1) and Ohio Administrative Code Section 4757-5-02 (B) (1), (2) & (3).

4. **LEWIS ADMITS** the allegations referenced in paragraphs 2 and 3 above.

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

1. **LEWIS'S** licenses to practice social work and marriage and family therapy are **REPRIMANDED**
2. **LEWIS** may not engage in the private practice of social work, or marriage and family therapy, in Ohio without the supervision of an independently licensed individual for a period of nine (9) months. **LEWIS** must be supervised in all aspects of her practice of social work and marriage and family therapy. **LEWIS'S** supervisor must be pre-approved by the **BOARD** and should not have a prior relationship with **LEWIS**. If a previous relationship exists, **LEWIS** must provide full disclosure of such a relationship in the request for supervisor approval. All cost associated with supervision will be at **LEWIS'S** expense. The request for supervisor approval must be made in writing, include a copy of the supervisor's vita and be submitted no later than two weeks after the signing of this consent agreement. **LEWIS'S** supervisor must submit quarterly reports to the **BOARD** for the nine month period detailing topics discussed during supervision sessions, areas of concern, areas of improvement and make a recommendation with regards to **LEWIS'S** suitability to practice. However, if **LEWIS'S** supervisor is concerned with **LEWIS'S** practice at any time during the supervision period the **BOARD** should be notified immediately. It is **LEWIS'S** responsibility to ensure that the **BOARD** receives all supervision reports.

3. After the nine months of supervision **LEWIS**, must be monitored in all aspects of her practice of social work and marriage and family therapy and receive face-to-face monitoring at the rate of one hour for every two weeks of actual therapy in Ohio for a two (2) year period. **LEWIS'S** monitor must be pre-approved by the **BOARD**, hold an independent license, and should not have a prior relationship with **LEWIS**. If a previous relationship exists, **LEWIS** must provide full disclosure of such a relationship in the request for monitor approval. All cost associated with monitoring will be at **LEWIS'S** expense. The request for monitor approval must be made in writing, include a copy of the monitor's vita and be submitted no later than two weeks after the signing of this consent agreement. Monitoring should focus on, but not be limited to, ethical decision making, informed consent and mandatory reporting. Monitoring should be considered training in nature and should not be limited to simply approving and denying case plans. **LEWIS'S** monitor must submit quarterly reports to the **BOARD** for the entire two year period detailing topics discussed during monitoring sessions, areas of concern, areas of improvement and make a recommendation with regards to **LEWIS'S** suitability to practice. However, if **LEWIS'S** monitor is concerned with **LEWIS'S** practice at any time during the probationary period the **BOARD** should be notified immediately. It is **LEWIS'S** responsibility to ensure that the **BOARD** receives all monitoring reports.

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**, **LEWIS** 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. **LEWIS** 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. Should the licensee fail to comply with any provisions of this consent agreement, the Board in its discretion, may initiate further disciplinary action pursuant to OAC 4757-11-01C (21).

LEWIS 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 9NPDB0, 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. 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 **LEWIS'S** social security number to requesting governmental agencies.

The **BOARD** shall incorporate this CONSENT AGREEMENT into a formal journal entry at its March 2014 meeting.

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

THE OHIO COUNSELOR,
SOCIAL WORKER AND MARRIAGE AND
FAMILY THERAPIST BOARD



KAREN G. LEWIS, LMFT, LISW

3/4/14

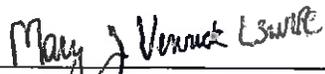
Date



Glennon J. Karr, Esq.
Counsel for LEWIS

3/10/14

Date



Mary J. Venrick, LSW, LPC
Chair, Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage and
Family Therapist Board

3-21-14

Date

Melissa L. Wilburn, Esq.
Senior Assistant Attorney General
Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage and Family
Therapist Board

Date