

Counselor, Social Worker & Marriage and Family Therapist Board

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ADJUDICATION ORDER in the Matter of:

Tina L. Postage-Gowins
9581 Merry Lane
Pickerington, OH 43147

IN THE MATTER OF TINA L. POSTAGE-GOWINS TO PRACTICE AS A
LICENSED SOCIAL WORKER IN THE STATE OF OHIO.

THE MATTER OF TINA L. POSTAGE-GOWINS CAME BEFORE THE
FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE SOCIAL WORKER PROFESSIONAL
STANDARDS COMMITTEE OF THE OHIO COUNSELOR, SOCIAL WORKER,
AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST BOARD ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2009:
MOLLY TUCKER, JENNIFER RIESBECK-LEE, TIMOTHY BRADY, ROBERT
NELSON, AND KAREN HUEY.

FINDINGS, ORDER, AND JOURNAL ENTRY

This matter came for consideration after a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing was issued to Tina L. Postage-Gowins by the Social Worker Professional Standards Committee on August 7, 2009.

Pursuant to R.C. 119.07 licensees are entitled to a hearing before the Board if such a hearing is requested within thirty days of the mailing or publishing of the Notice of Opportunity for Hearing. In this case, Ms. Postage-Gowins did not make a request for such a hearing, therefore pursuant to *Goldman v. State Medical Board* (March 29, 1996) Franklin County Court of Appeals, 95 APE 10-1358 the case was presented to the Social Work Professional Standards Committee on September 17, 2009.

Summary of Evidence

State's Exhibits

1. Affidavit prepared by William L. Hegarty, Deputy Director, State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board.
2. Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Ms. Postage-Gowins dated August 7, 2009 (State Exhibit A).
3. Consent Agreement entered into in March 2007. (State Exhibit B).
4. Letters to Ms. Postage-Gowins from the Board dated March 16, 2009, and April 17, 2009 along with an e-mail send to Ms. Postage-Gowins on May 18, 2009. (State Exhibit C).

Conclusions of Law

Ohio Revised Code Section 4757.36(A)(1) provides that the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board may take disciplinary action against a licensee who has committed a violation of any provision of the Board's law and rules. Ohio Administrative Code Section 4757-11-01C(21) states the Board can discipline a licensee who fails to adhere to any conditions set forth in a board approved consent agreement.

Discussion and Findings

As required in the case of *Goldman v. State Medical Board* (March 29, 1996) Franklin County Court of Appeals 95APE10-1358, all cases where a Board issues a Notice for Opportunity for Hearing and the individual does not request a hearing, the Board still must review evidence presented to it and make specific findings of fact. In this case, Ms. Postage-Gowins did not request a hearing after receiving the Notice for Opportunity for Hearing.

The Social Worker Professional Standards Committee has reviewed the evidence prepared in this case. The Committee finds that Ms. Postage-Gowins did not comply with the Consent Agreement entered into between herself and the Board. Based on this, the Committee orders that Ms. Postage-Gowins' license to practice social work (S-0013541) be **REVOKED**. As Ordered by the Social Worker Professional Standards Committee of the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board.

It is hereby certified by this Board that the above language is incorporated into the Board's journal in this matter.

APPEAL RIGHTS

Pursuant to Section 119.12 of the Ohio Revised code, you have the right to appeal this Order. The appeal must be commenced by filing your original Notice of Appeal with the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board, 50 West Broad Street, Suite 1075, Columbus, Ohio 43215. A copy of the appeal must be filed with the Court of Common Pleas in the county in which the place of your business is located or the county in which you reside. If you are not a resident of Ohio and/or have no place of business within the State, a copy of your appeal may be filed with the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas. Appeal filings must be received within fifteen (15) days of the mailing of this Adjudication Order. The Notice of Appeal must set forth the Order appealed, the grounds for appeal and must be in accordance with the requirements outlined in section 119.12 of the Ohio Revised Code.

By Order of the State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board.



James Rough
Executive Director

9-18-09

Date

Certified Mail Receipt #7005 3110 0002 4898 1636

CSWMFTB

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**CONSENT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
TINA L. POSTAGE-GOWINS
AND THE
STATE OF OHIO COUNSELOR, SOCIAL WORKER, MARRIAGE AND
FAMILY THERAPIST BOARD**

This CONSENT AGREEMENT is entered into by and between TINA L. POSTAGE-GOWINS, hereinafter, "POSTAGE-GOWINS," 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.

POSTAGE-GOWINS 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.

POSTAGE-GOWINS 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. Should POSTAGE-GOWINS fail to comply with any provisions of this CONSENT AGREEMENT, POSTAGE-GOWINS knowingly waives her 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. POSTAGE-GOWINS is a social worker (S-0013541) 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 and Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 4757. POSTAGE-GOWINS received her social work license on February 1, 1992.
2. While employed at Lighthouse Counseling, Columbus, Ohio, in 2006, POSTAGE-GOWINS did not complete assigned case notes for clients' files. Failure to include sufficient and timely documentation in records to facilitate the delivery of services and to ensure continuity of

Consent Agreement between Tina L. Postage-Gowins and the State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist Board

services provided to the clients in the future constitutes a violation of Ohio Revised Code Section 4757.36(A)(1) and Ohio Administrative Code Section 4757-5-01(I)(2).

3. While employed at Lighthouse Counseling, Columbus, Ohio, **POSTAGE-GOWINS** practiced social work on a lapsed license from February 2006 through December 2006. Practicing social work on a lapsed license constitutes a violation of Ohio Revised Code Section 4757.36(A)(1) and Ohio Administrative Code Section 4757-7-02.
4. **POSTAGE-GOWINS** admits the allegations referenced in paragraphs 2-3 above.

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

1. **POSTAGE-GOWINS'** license to practice social work is hereby **REPRIMANDED**.
2. **POSTAGE-GOWINS** must receive face-to face supervision, by an individual pre-approved by the Board, one-hour every week for a period of 1 year. **POSTAGE-GOWINS** should not select a supervisor with which she has a prior relationship. If any previous relationship with the supervisor exists, **POSTAGE-GOWINS** must provide full disclosure of such a relationship in the request for supervisor approval. The 1-year supervision period will not begin until **POSTAGE-GOWINS'** supervisor is approved but no earlier than August 1, 2007. **POSTAGE-GOWINS** should submit the name of her proposed supervisor no later than July 15, 2007. Supervision should focus on, but not limited to, **POSTAGE-GOWINS'** role in ethical decision-making and proper record keeping. **POSTAGE-GOWINS'** supervisor is required to submit a report to the Board, quarterly, detailing topics discussed during supervision sessions, areas of concern, and areas for improvement. At the end of the 1-year supervised period, **POSTAGE-GOWINS'** supervisor will make a final report encompassing the 1 year of supervision. If **POSTAGE-GOWINS'** supervisor is concerned with **POSTAGE-GOWINS** practice at any time, the Board should be notified immediately. It is **POSTAGE-GOWINS'** responsibility to ensure that the Board receives the supervisor's reports. All costs associated with the supervision are at the expense of **POSTAGE-GOWINS**.
3. **POSTAGE-GOWINS** must take and pass a social work ethics course. The course must be taken for credit, part of a social work program from an accredited college or university, and pre-approved in writing by the Board. Once **POSTAGE-GOWINS** successfully completes this course, she must ensure official transcripts are sent directly from the college or university to the attention of the Investigation Unit at the Board office.

Consent Agreement between Tina L. Postage-Gowins and the State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist Board

The transcript verifying completion is due in the Board office no later than August 1, 2008. The credit earned from the course may not be used toward the thirty (30) hours of continuing education required for license renewal. All costs associated with the course are at the expense of **POSTAGE-GOWINS**.

4. **POSTAGE-GOWINS** must complete and return all client notes, files, etc. to Lighthouse Counseling by April 1, 2007.

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**, **POSTAGE-GOWINS** 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. **POSTAGE-GOWINS** 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.

POSTAGE-GOWINS 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 3123.41 et seq. the **BOARD** may be required to provide **POSTAGE-GOWINS'** social security number to requesting governmental agencies.

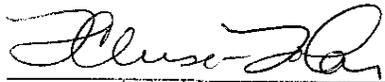
The **BOARD** shall incorporate this **CONSENT AGREEMENT** into a formal journal entry at its March 16, 2007, meeting.

Consent Agreement between Tina L. Postage-Gowins and the State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist Board

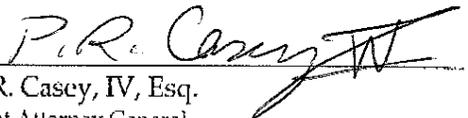
This CONSENT AGREEMENT shall take effect upon the date of the Board Chair's signature below:


Tina L. Postage-Gowins, LSW

3-7-07
Date


Theresa Cluse-Tolar, Ph.D., LISW
Chair, Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist Board

3-16-07
Date


Peter R. Casey, IV, Esq.
Assistant Attorney General
Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist Board

3-16-07
Date