

MS. BANTON BLURRED PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES BY ALLOWING A CLIENT TO RESIDE IN THE BASEMENT OF HER PRIVATE RESIDENCE FROM OCTOBER 2002, THROUGH JANUARY 2003 MS. BANTON'S LICENSE TO PRACTICE SOCIAL WORK WAS SUSPENDED PER CONSENT AGREEMENT FROM JUNE 1, 2004, THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2004. MS. BANTON COMPLETED THE SUSPENSION AND THE LICENSE IS RESTORED AS OF 05/04/2010.

**CONSENT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
ANDREA J. BANTON
AND THE**

**STATE OF OHIO COUNSELOR, SOCIAL WORKER, MARRIAGE AND
FAMILY THERAPIST BOARD**

This CONSENT AGREEMENT is entered into by and between ANDREA J. BANTON, hereinafter, "BANTON", 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 thereunder.

BANTON 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.

BANTON 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 BANTON fail to comply with any provisions of this CONSENT AGREEMENT, BANTON 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. BANTON is a social worker (S-21941) 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. MOORE received her social work license on September 22, 2004.
2. Towards the end of October 2002, BANTON blurred her professional boundaries by allowing a client, who had been asked to leave a shelter, to reside in the basement of her private residence until January 2003. BANTON'S actions constitute a violation of Ohio Revised Code Section 4757.36(A)(1) and Ohio Administrative Code Section 4757-5-01(C)(1).
3. BANTON ADMITS the allegations referenced in paragraph 2 above.

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

1. **BANTON'S** license to practice social work is hereby **REPRIMANDED**.
2. **BANTON'S** license to practice social work (S-21941) is **SUSPENDED** for three (3) months beginning June 1, 2004 through August 31, 2004.
3. **BANTON** 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 university, and pre-approved by the Board. Once **BANTON** successfully completes this course, **BANTON** must ensure official transcripts are sent directly from the university to the attention of the Investigation Unit at the Board office. The transcript verifying completion is due in the Board office no later than December 31, 2005. 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 **BANTON**.

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**, **BANTON** 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. **BANTON** 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.

If, following notice and an evidentiary hearing, not an Ohio Revised Code Chapter 119 hearing, **BANTON** is found by the **BOARD** to have violated any terms of this Consent Agreement, the **BOARD** may impose any penalty up to and including **REVOCATION** of **BANTON'S** social work license based solely upon a violation of this Consent Agreement. **BANTON** may not appeal this action.

BANTON 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 **BANTON'S** social security number to requesting governmental agencies.

Consent Agreement between Andrea J. Banton and the State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist Board

The **BOARD** shall incorporate this **CONSENT AGREEMENT** into a formal journal entry at its May 21, 2004, meeting.

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



Andrea J. Barton, LSW

4/19/04

Date

Counsel for Ms. Barton

Date



Michael Davis, PCC
Chair, Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist Board

5-21-04

Date



Julie Barone, Esq.
Assistant Attorney General
Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist Board

5-21-04

Date