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**CONSENT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
KATHY MERCON
AND THE
STATE OF OHIO COUNSELOR, SOCIAL WORKER, MARRIAGE AND
FAMILY THERAPIST BOARD**

This CONSENT AGREEMENT is entered into by and between KATHY MERCON, hereinafter, "MERCON," 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.

MERCON 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.

MERCON 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 MERCON fail to comply with any provisions of this CONSENT AGREEMENT, MERCON 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. MERCON was a social worker (S-27513) 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. MERCON received her social work license on November 19, 2001. The BOARD granted her an extension to renew her license until March 19, 2002.
2. MERCON failed to renew her social work license which lapsed on March 19, 2002, yet she continued to practice social work at the Domestic Violence Task Force, Hillsboro, Ohio until she was terminated on March 29, 2005. Practicing social work on a lapsed

license is a violation of ORC 4757.36(A)(1) and OAC 4757-7-02

3. **MERCON** applied to the **BOARD** to be re-licensed as a social worker on April 26, 2005.
4. **MERCON ADMITS** the allegations referenced in paragraphs 1-3 above.

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

1. The **BOARD** will license **MERCON** as a social worker at its May 2005 Board meeting with the understanding that there is formal disciplinary action on her license.
2. **MERCON** must take, in addition to her regular renewal responsibilities, 10 hours of continuing education in the area of social work ethics. These hours must be pre-approved by the **BOARD'S** Deputy Director of his designee. **MERCON** will send to the Deputy Director copies of the attendance certificates for these pre-approved hours. All costs associated with this requirement are borne by **MERCON**.

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**, **MERCON** 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. **MERCON** 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.

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

The **BOARD** shall incorporate this CONSENT AGREEMENT into a formal journal entry
at its May 20, 2005, meeting.

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

Kathy Mercon
Kathy Mercon

Rose Quinones DelValle, Ph.D., PCC
Rose Quinones-DelValle, Ph.D., PCC
Chair, Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and
Family Therapist Board

5-6-05
Date

5-20-05
Date