

Mr. Coots completed the terms of the  
consent agreement as of 3/25/2013.

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

This CONSENT AGREEMENT is entered into by and between AARON COOTS, hereinafter, "COOTS", 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.

COOTS 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.

COOTS 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, based on the Board's investigation, 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. COOTS is a social worker (S.0800233) 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. COOTS received his social work license on March 27, 2008.
2. In the Fall of 2010, COOTS, while employed at an agency in Cincinnati, OH, began a sexual relationship with a former client immediately after terminating their professional relationship. COOTS' actions constitute a violation of Ohio Revised Code Section 4757.36(C)(1) and Ohio Administrative Code Section 4757-5-04(C).
3. COOTS 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 other formal disciplinary proceedings, COOTS knowingly and voluntarily agrees with the BOARD to the following terms and conditions:

1. **COOTS'** license to practice social work is hereby **REPRIMANDED**.
2. **COOTS** must receive personal mental health counseling, by an individual pre-approved by the Board, for a period of two (2) years. The 2-year personal counseling period will not begin until **COOTS'** mental health provider is approved in writing by the Board's Deputy Director or his designee. **COOTS** should select an independently licensed mental health provider and submit his/her name, address, and credentials for written approval by the Board. **COOTS'** mental health provider agrees to provide the Board with a written report every six (6) months detailing the issues discussed in session and **COOTS'** overall compliance with this requirement. At the end of the 2-year mental health counseling period, **COOTS'** approved mental health provider will make a final report encompassing the 2 years of personal counseling. If **COOTS'** mental health provider is concerned with **COOTS'** practice at any time the Board should be notified immediately. It is **COOTS'** responsibility to ensure that the Board receives the mental health provider reports. All costs associated with the mental health counseling are at the expense of **COOTS**.

It is hereby agreed by and between both parties that this **CONSENT AGREEMENT** hereby settles all issues concerning this matter.

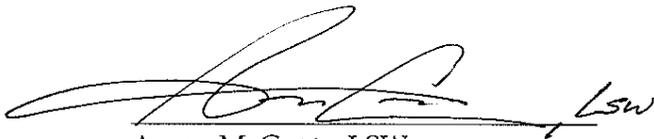
By his signature on this **CONSENT AGREEMENT**, **COOTS** acknowledges that in the event the **BOARD**, in its discretion, does not approve this **CONSENT AGREEMENT**, this settlement offer is withdrawn and shall be of no evidentiary value and shall not be relied upon or introduced in any disciplinary action or appeal by either party. **COOTS** 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.

**COOTS** hereby releases the members of the **BOARD**, its officers and employees, jointly and severally, from any and all liability arising from the matter within.

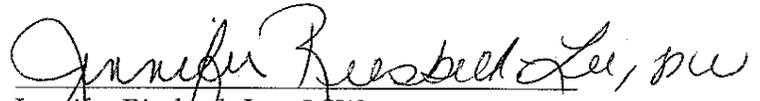
This **CONSENT AGREEMENT** shall be considered a public record as that term is used in Section 149.43 of the Ohio Revised Code. Pursuant to 42 USC Section 132a-73(b), 5 USC Section 552a, 45 CFR part 61, and Ohio Revised Code 3123.41 et seq., the **BOARD** may be required to provide **COOTS'** social security number to requesting governmental agencies.

The **BOARD** shall incorporate this **CONSENT AGREEMENT** into a formal journal entry at its March, 2011, meeting.

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Aaron M. Coots, LSW

2/14/2011  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Riesbeck-Lee, LSW  
Chair, Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and  
Family Therapist Board

3-18-11  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Leah VB O'Carroll, Esq.  
Assistant Attorney General  
Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family  
Therapist Board

March 18, 2011  
Date