

**CONSENT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
LEAH M. COHEN
AND THE
STATE OF OHIO COUNSELOR, SOCIAL WORKER, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY
THERAPIST BOARD**

This CONSENT AGREEMENT is entered into by and between LEAH M. COHEN, hereinafter, "COHEN," 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.

COHEN hereby acknowledges that she has read and understands this CONSENT AGREEMENT and has voluntarily entered into it without threat by the BOARD or any of its members, employees or agents.

COHEN 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 stipulations, admissions and understandings:

1. COHEN is a social worker (S.0900635) 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. COHEN received her social work license on March 20, 2009.
2. On or about July 10, 2018, COHEN was found guilty in the Summit County Court of Common Pleas of the possession of drugs, a fifth degree felony. This constitutes a violation of R.C. Ohio Revised Code Section 4757.36(C)(5).
3. On or about July 20, 2017, COHEN entered into a Consent Agreement with the Board. This consent agreement stipulated, among other things, that COHEN must not receive any criminal convictions of any nature related to abuse of legal or illegal substances. On or about July 10, 2018, COHEN was found guilty

in the Summit County Court of Common Pleas of the possession of drugs, a fifth degree felony. This constitutes a violation of Ohio Revised Code Section 4757.36(C)(1) and Ohio Administrative Code Section 4757-11-01C(21).

4. COHEN admits the statements in paragraphs 1 through 3 previously.

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

- A. COHEN'S license to practice as a social worker (S.0900635) is indefinitely suspended for a minimum of 3 years beginning on September 14, 2018. Before COHEN'S license suspension to practice as a social worker is lifted, COHEN must obtain and pass a fitness for practice/mental health and substance abuse examination/assessment at her own expense. COHEN must submit in writing the name, contact information and resume or professional vitae of the independently licensed mental health professional for pre-approval by the Board whom COHEN wants to conduct this examination/assessment. There must be full disclosure in the pre-approval request of any previous personal or professional relationship between COHEN and the requested mental health provider. Once the fitness for practice/mental health and substance abuse examination/assessment is completed, it will be reviewed by a representative(s) of the Board's Social Work Professional Standards Committee to determine if the suspension should be lifted. COHEN must continue to renew her social work license as required under BOARD rules if she plans to practice after the termination of her suspension.
- B. COHEN must successfully complete all requirements set out in the Journal Entries of Summit County Court of Common Pleas Case No. CR-2018-05-1690, and CR-2017-12-4323-A, attached as Exhibit A, including any court-ordered changes or amendments. Such requirements include, but are not limited to, successful completion of all terms of probation. COHEN must assist BOARD staff by ensuring any information required from the Court to show COHEN'S compliance or non-compliance is obtained. COHEN acknowledges that a violation of her probation in either Summit County Case specified above, or any new conviction in any jurisdiction, shall constitute a violation of this CONSENT AGREEMENT.
- C. Should COHEN 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).

D. For a period of two years before the date of her return to practice, COHEN must receive a minimum of two (2) sixty (60) minute sessions per month of personal counseling from a BOARD pre-approved mental health practitioner. The BOARD shall count as part of COHEN'S 2 year requirement all documented inpatient treatment and any outpatient counseling COHEN completes pursuant to her probation, as described in paragraph 6 of her Journal Entries, Exhibit A. COHEN shall use the procedure described in paragraph A above, to obtain approval of the practitioner, who shall not be the same as the practitioner who conducted the evaluation in paragraph A. The practitioner shall provide the Board with quarterly reports detailing issues discussed in counseling, including, but not limited to, COHEN'S substance abuse recovery. At the end of the two year counseling period, the practitioner shall submit to the BOARD a report encompassing the overall counseling period and addressing COHEN'S recovery, including areas of improvement, areas of concern, if any, and whether, in the practitioner's professional opinion COHEN is fit to practice as a social worker. COHEN understands that should she not complete the 2 years of required personal counseling per this paragraph that the suspension of her social work license will not be lifted.

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

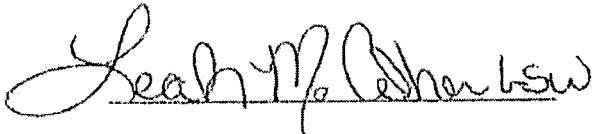
By her signature on this CONSENT AGREEMENT, COHEN acknowledges that in the event the BOARD, in its discretion, does not approve this CONSENT AGREEMENT, this settlement offer is withdrawn and shall be of no evidentiary value and shall not be relied upon or introduced in any disciplinary action or appeal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

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

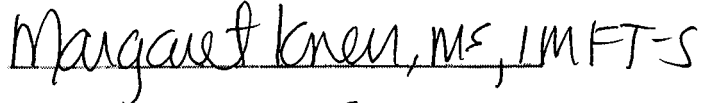
This CONSENT AGREEMENT shall be considered a public record as that term is used in Section 149.43 of the Ohio Revised Code. All parties to this Consent Agreement understand that this information will be sent to the United States Department of Health and Human Services' National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB), 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. The BOARD shall incorporate this CONSENT AGREEMENT into a formal journal entry at its September 2018, meeting.

Consent Agreement between Leah M. Cohen 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:



Leah M. Cohen, LSW



Margaret A. Knerr, IMFT -S

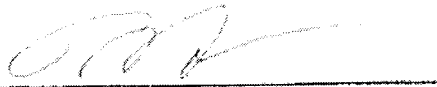
Chair, Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist Board

9.8.2018

Date

9/14/18

Date



Todd W. Collis, Esq.

Counsel for Ms. Cohen



Melissa L. Wilburn, Esq.

Senior Assistant Attorney General

9.10.2018

Date

September 11, 2018

Date

**CONSENT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
LEAH M. COHEN
AND THE
STATE OF OHIO COUNSELOR, SOCIAL WORKER, MARRIAGE AND
FAMILY THERAPIST BOARD**

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This CONSENT AGREEMENT is entered into by and between LEAH M. COHEN, hereinafter, "**COHEN**," 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.

COHEN 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.

COHEN 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 stipulations, admissions and understandings:

1. **COHEN** is a social worker (S.0900635) 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. **COHEN** received her social work license on March 20, 2009.
2. **COHEN** is a recovering addict. In 2014 and 2015, after she had relapsed, **COHEN** received several felony convictions related to her addiction. Currently **COHEN** is active in her recovery. Receiving a felony conviction as a licensee is a violation of Ohio Revised Code 4757.36(C)(5).
3. **COHEN** admits the statements 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, **COHEN** knowingly and voluntarily agrees with the **BOARD** to the following terms and conditions:

1. **COHEN'S** license to practice as a social worker (S.0900635) is reprimanded.
2. **COHEN** must maintain her recovery. Should **COHEN** relapse in any manner, the **BOARD** will initiate formal discipline up to and including a permanent revocation of her social work license.
3. **COHEN** must not receive any criminal convictions, of any nature, related to her abuse of legal or illegal substances.
4. **COHEN** understands that with regard to her social work licensure, this is a Last-Chance Agreement to maintain her license. Any infractions regarding criminal convictions or substance abuse will result in further formal discipline being initiated.

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

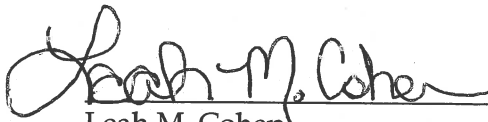
By her signature on this **CONSENT AGREEMENT**, **COHEN** acknowledges that in the event the **BOARD**, in its discretion, does not approve this **CONSENT AGREEMENT**, this settlement offer is withdrawn and shall be of no evidentiary value and shall not be relied upon or introduced in any disciplinary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

COHEN 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 (NPDB), 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. The **BOARD** shall incorporate this **CONSENT AGREEMENT** into a formal journal entry at its July 2017, meeting.

Consent Agreement between Leah M. Cohen 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:



Leah M. Cohen

6/28/17

Date



Matthew J. Paylo, Ph.D., LPC
Chair, Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and
Family Therapist Board

7/20/17

Date