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CONSENT AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
STEPHANIE S. ADAMS  
AND THE  
STATE OF OHIO COUNSELOR, SOCIAL WORKER, AND MARRIAGE AND  
FAMILY THERAPIST BOARD

This CONSENT AGREEMENT is entered into by and between STEPHANIE S. ADAMS, hereinafter, "ADAMS", and the STATE OF OHIO COUNSELOR, SOCIAL WORKER, AND 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.

ADAMS 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.

ADAMS 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. ADAMS had been licensed as a social worker from September 17, 2004, through September 17, 2006. ADAMS allowed her social work license to expire. On June 3, 2011, the BOARD received ADAMS' application for license as a Social Worker. Information obtained by the Board indicated that ADAMS had been practicing social work without a valid license for almost five years.
2. ADAMS admits the statements referenced in paragraph 1 above.

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

1. ADAMS will be granted a Social Work license by the Board's Social Work Professional Standards Committee. This license will indicate that there is a permanent Reprimand on the license for practicing without a valid social work license.
2. ADAMS must take ten (10) hours of continuing social work education in the area of professional ethics. These hours must be pre-approved in writing by the Board's Deputy Director or his designee. After

ADAMS completes these hours, she must submit a copy of her attendance certificate(s) to verify her attendance for these hours. These hours must be completed and verification submitted no later than January 31, 2012. The credit earned from these hours may not be used toward the thirty (30) hours of continuing education required for license renewal. All costs associated with the continuing education are at the expense of ADAMS.

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

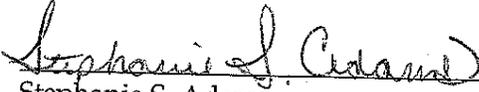
By her signature on this CONSENT AGREEMENT, ADAMS acknowledges that in the event the BOARD, in its discretion, does not approve this CONSENT AGREEMENT, this settlement offer is withdrawn and shall be of no evidentiary value and shall not be relied upon or introduced in any disciplinary action or appeal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

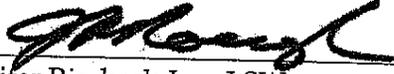
ADAMS hereby releases the members of the BOARD, its officers and employees, jointly and severally, from any and all liability arising from the matter within.

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 ADAMS' social security number to requesting governmental agencies.

The BOARD shall incorporate this CONSENT AGREEMENT into a formal journal entry at its July 2011, meeting. This CONSENT AGREEMENT shall take effect upon the date of the last signature below:

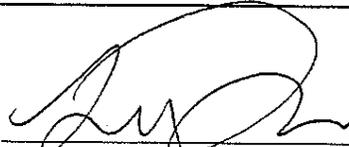
THE OHIO COUNSELOR,  
SOCIAL WORKER, AND MARRIAGE  
AND FAMILY THERAPIST BOARD

  
Stephanie S. Adams

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

6/28/11  
Date

7-22-11  
Date



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Leah V.B. O'Carroll, Esq.  
Assistant Attorney General  
Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family  
Therapist Board

7/22/11

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Date



## ***Counselor, Social Worker & Marriage and Family Therapist Board***

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50 West Broad Street, Suite 1075  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-5919  
614-466-0912 & Fax 614-728-7790  
<http://cswmft.ohio.gov> & [cswmft.info@cswb.state.oh.us](mailto:cswmft.info@cswb.state.oh.us)

### **ADJUDICATION ORDER in the Matter of:**

Stephanie S. Adams  
6834 Ramblewood Drive, Apt F  
Fort Wayne, IN 46835

IN THE MATTER OF STEPHANIE S. ADAMS TO PRACTICE AS A LICENSED SOCIAL WORKER IN THE STATE OF OHIO.

THE MATTER OF STEPHANIE S. ADAMS 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 JULY 19, 2012: STEVE POLOVICK, JENNIFER HADDON, AND ROBERT NELSON.

### **FINDINGS, ORDER, AND JOURNAL ENTRY**

This matter came for consideration after a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing was issued to Stephanie S. Adams by the Social Worker Professional Standards Committee on May 15, 2012.

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 of the Notice of Opportunity for Hearing. In this case, Ms. Adams failed to make a timely 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 July 19, 2012.

### **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. Adams dated May 15, 2012.
3. Consent Agreement, entered into by Ms. Adams and the Board, dated July 22, 2011.
4. Communication between Margaret-Ann Adorjan, Board compliance officer, Bill Hegarty, Board Deputy Director, and Ms. Adams.

### **Conclusions of Law**

Ohio Revised Code Section 4757.36(C)(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 4757-11-01(C)(21) states that the Board may discipline a licensee for failing to comply with 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. Adams did not request a hearing on her Notice for Opportunity for Hearing.

The Social Worker Professional Standards Committee has reviewed the evidence prepared in this case. The Committee finds that Ms. Adams did not comply with the provisions of the Consent Agreement. Based on this, the Committee orders that Ms. Adams' license to practice as a social worker (S.1100809) is **REVOKED**. As Ordered by the Social Worker Professional Standards Committee of the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board.

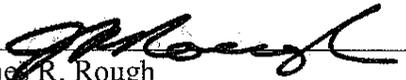
It is hereby certified by this Board that the above language is incorporated into the Board's journal in this matter.

### **APPEAL RIGHTS**

Under the provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 119.12, any party adversely affected by an order of an agency issued pursuant to an adjudication denying an applicant admission to an examination, or denying the issuance or renewal of a license or registration of a license, or revoking or suspending a license, may appeal from the order of the agency to the court of common pleas of the county in which the place of business of the licensee is located or the county in which the licensee is a resident. If any such party is not a resident of and has no place of business in Ohio, the party may appeal to the court of common pleas of Franklin County

This *Order* may be appealed in accordance with Section 119.12 of the Ohio Revised Code by filing the original Notice of Appeal with the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapy Board, 50 West Broad Street, Suite 1075, Columbus, Ohio 43215, and also a copy of that Notice of Appeal with the Court of Common Pleas in the county of the party's place of business, or in the county in which the party is a resident. The Notice of Appeal shall set forth the Order appealed from and the grounds of the Party's appeal. Such Notice of Appeal and copy shall be filed and must be delivered within fifteen (15) days after the mailing of this *Adjudication Order*.

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

  
James R. Rough  
Executive Director

7-20-12  
Date

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