

BERNARD PROVIDED HOME STUDY ASSESSMENTS FOR FAMILIES SEEKING TO ADOPT CHILDREN BETWEEN ON OR ABOUT JUNE 2004 AND MAY 2005. BERNARD MADE NUMEROUS ERRORS IN ONE HOME STUDY, INCLUDING LISTING ANOTHER FAMILY'S CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, AND CITING THE WRONG NATIONALITY FOR THE CHILD THE FAMILY ATTEMPTED TO ADOPT. PER CONSENT AGREEMENT WITH THE BOARD, MS. BERNARD WAS REQUIRED TO WORK UNDER SUPERVISION FOR ONE YEAR AND TAKE ADDITIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION. THE TERMS OF THE CONSENT AGREEMENT ARE COMPLETE AS OF 5/19/2008.

Ms. Bernard and the State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist Board

**CONSENT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
BONNIE BERNARD
AND THE**

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

This **CONSENT AGREEMENT** is entered into by and between **BONNIE BERNARD**, hereinafter, "**BERNARD**" 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.

BERNARD 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.

BERNARD 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 **BERNARD** fail to comply with any provisions of this **CONSENT AGREEMENT**, **BERNARD** 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 and, understandings:

1. **BERNARD** is a professional counselor (C-0500005) licensed to practice counseling in the State of Ohio, and is subject to the laws and rules of Ohio regulating the practice of counseling as outlined in Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4757 and Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 4757. **BERNARD** received her counseling license on May 20, 2005.
2. **BERNARD** provided home study assessments for families seeking to adopt children between on or about June 2004 and May 2005. **BERNARD** made numerous errors in one home study, including listing another family's confidential information, and citing the wrong nationality for the child the family attempted to adopt.
3. While conducting all home studies, **BERNARD** was supervised by a licensed social worker, who signed off on each home study in

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question. **BERNARD** does not deny that she submitted a home study with errors, but she did have the family in question proof read and approve the home study prior to submission.

4. While conducting home studies for ODJFS does not require licensure as a counselor, **BERNARD** admits that mistakes were made while drafting some home studies and that she is willing to work with a monitor for a period of one year to ensure that in the future she completes all home studies in a thorough and accurate manner.
5. **BERNARD** neither admits nor denies the allegations listed above.

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

1. **BERNARD'S** license to practice counseling (C-0500005) is REPRIMANDED.
2. **BERNARD** must work under supervision for one (1) year with a minimum of one hour of face-to-face supervision per week or two hours of face-to-face supervision, two times per month, beginning on the date that the supervisor is approved. The supervisor must be pre-approved by the Board Deputy Director or his designee. The supervisor must submit quarterly reports regarding the supervision. Supervision should focus on, but not be limited to, areas of concern, areas for improvement, record keeping practices, and ethical decision making. Quarters consist of the following dates: Jan.-Mar, Apr.-Jun., Jul.-Sept., and Oct.-Dec. In order to meet the requirements of this agreement the reports must be received for each quarter. If **BERNARD'S** supervisor is concerned with **BERNARD'S** practice at any time the Board should be notified immediately. **BERNARD** is responsible for the submission of the reports to the Board. All cost associated with the supervision is the responsibility of **BERNARD**. Once **BERNARD** successfully completes this supervision, **BERNARD** must ensure verification of completion is sent to the attention of the Investigation Unit at the Board office.
3. **BERNARD** must take an additional six (6) hours in counselor ethics continuing education. All hours must be pre-approved by the Board's Deputy Director or his designee. Once **BERNARD** successfully completes this continuing education, **BERNARD** must send verification directly to the attention of the Investigation Unit at the Board office. The certificates verifying completion are due in the Board office no later than May 18, 2007. The credit earned from the workshops 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 **BERNARD**.

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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, BERNARD 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. BERNARD 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.

BERNARD 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 BERNARD'S social security number to requesting governmental agencies.

The BOARD shall incorporate this CONSENT AGREEMENT into a formal journal entry at its September 22, 2006, meeting.

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

Bonnie Bernard
Bonnie Bernard, PC

Theresa Cluse-Tolar
Theresa Cluse-Tolar, Ph.D., LISW
Chair, Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist Board

Date _____

Date 9-22-06

Elizabeth Y. Collis
Elizabeth Y. Collis, Esq.
Counsel for Bonnie Bernard

Peter R. Casey IV
Peter R. Casey IV, Esq.
Assistant Attorney General
Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist Board

Date 9-21-06

Date 9/22/06