

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

This **CONSENT AGREEMENT** is entered into by and between **DEBRA GUNNELS** hereinafter, "**GUNNELS**" 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.

GUNNELS hereby acknowledges that she has read and understands this **CONSENT AGREEMENT** and has voluntarily entered into it with **GUNNELS** out threat or promise by the **BOARD** or any of its members, employees or agents. **GUNNELS** 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 and understandings:

1. **GUNNELS** is a professional counselor (C-0800003) licensed to practice counseling 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 Section 4757 and Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 4757. **GUNNELS** received her counselor license on May 8, 2015.
2. In 2017, while employed at a private practice agency in Dayton, Ohio, **GUNNELS** failed to maintain records and failed to maintain best practice standards with regard to ethical decision making and client communications. These actions constitutes violations of O.R.C. 4757.36 (C) (1), O.A.C. 4757-5-02 (A) (2).
3. **GUNNELS** admits the allegations referenced in paragraph 2.

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

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1. **GUNNELS'S** license to practice counseling (C-0800003) is hereby **REPRIMANDED**.
2. **GUNNELS** must be supervised in all aspects of her practice of counseling and receive face-to-face supervision at the rate of one hour per every forty hours of work for a One (1) year period. **These hours shall not be counted towards the experience requirement for obtaining an LPCC.** **GUNNELS** supervisor must be **pre-approved** by the **BOARD**, hold an independent level license with the supervision designation and should **not** have a prior relationship with **GUNNELS**. If a previous relationship exists, **GUNNELS** must provide full disclosure of such a relationship in the request for supervisor approval. All cost associated with supervision will be at **GUNNELS'** expense. The request for supervisor approval must be made in writing include a copy of the supervisor's vita. Supervision should focus on, but not be limited to, ethical decision making, confidentiality, multiple relationships, professional boundaries and standards of care. Supervision should be considered training in nature and should not be limited to simply approving and denying case plans. **GUNNELS** supervisor must submit quarterly reports to the **BOARD** for the entire period detailing topics discussed during supervision sessions, areas of concern, areas of improvement and make a recommendation with regards to **GUNNELS'** suitability to practice. However, if **GUNNELS'** supervisor is concerned with **GUNNELS'** practice at any time during the sanctioned supervisory period the **BOARD** should be notified immediately. It is **GUNNELS'** responsibility to ensure that the **BOARD** receives all supervision reports.
3. **GUNNELS** is required to complete six (6) additional hours of continuing education in ethics at her expense. The additional hours must be pre-approved by the **BOARD**. The additional hours must be completed by July 20, 2018. These additional hours may not be used for the renewal of her counselor license.

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**, **GUNNELS** 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. **GUNNELS** 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.

GUNNELS 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;

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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 May 2018, meeting.

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

Debra Gunnels LPC
Debra Gunnels, LPC

4-16-2018
Date

Erin Michel MSW, LSW
Erin Michel, MSW, LSW
Chair, Counselor, Social Worker,
Marriage and Family Therapist Board

5/17/18
Date