

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

This CONSENT AGREEMENT is entered into by and between GARY STANFORTH, hereinafter, "STANFORTH," 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.

STANFORTH 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.

STANFORTH 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. STANFORTH is an independent social worker (I.0007783) 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. STANFORTH received his independent social work license on March 21, 1997.
2. It is alleged that between 2016 and 2017, while employed at a state correctional and mental health institute, STANFORTH blurred his professional boundaries by gathering information while at work regarding becoming a legal guardian, in the future, of a current client. It is alleged that STANFORTH had been instructed by his supervisor to discontinue such discussions but continued to do so. It is alleged that STANFORTH'S actions constitute a violation of Ohio Revised Code Section 4757.36(C)(1) and Ohio Administrative Code Section 4757-5-03.
3. STANFORTH neither admits nor denies 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, **STANFORTH** knowingly and voluntarily agrees with the **BOARD** to the following terms and conditions:

1. **STANFORTH** must take, at his expense, the on-line continuing education course entitled "Ethics and Risk Management" offered by Heisel and Associates, [www.heiselandassoc.com/home-studies](http://www.heiselandassoc.com/home-studies) **STANFORTH** will have until January 31, 2018, to complete this requirement. The hours earned from this training may not be used to renew his LISW in the future. Upon completion of this requirement, **STANFORTH** will provide the Board with a certificate of completion. **STANFORTH** may take a different course of a similar nature in lieu of this stated course but this would have to be pre-approved in writing in advance by the Board's investigation department.

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, **STANFORTH** 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. **STANFORTH** 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. **STANFORTH** 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 November 2017, meeting.

Consent Agreement between Gary Stanforth and the State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist Board


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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Stanforth, LISW

10/6/17


Date

  
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Carrie Masters Starts, Esq.  
Counsel for Mr. Stanforth

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

11-16-17

Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Melissa L. Wilburn, Esq.  
Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist Board

11-17-2017

Date