

**CONSENT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
LAURI C. PIERCE
AND THE
STATE OF OHIO COUNSELOR, SOCIAL WORKER AND MARRIAGE AND
FAMILY THERAPIST BOARD**

This CONSENT AGREEMENT is entered into by and between LAURI C. PIERCE, hereinafter, "PIERCE," 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 therein.

PIERCE 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.

PIERCE 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 stipulation, admission and understanding:

1. PIERCE is a licensed independent social worker (I.0009650-SUPV) licensed 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. PIERCE received her independent social work license on January 17, 2003.
2. PIERCE was employed with Family Pride of Northeast Ohio, Chardon, OH, from approximately September 2004 to June 18, 2012. PIERCE failed to maintain appropriate boundaries by entering into a sexual relationship with an ex-client within 5 years after terminating the therapeutic relationship. PIERCE was terminated from her position with Family Pride of Northeast Ohio. This inappropriate conduct constitutes a violation of Ohio Revised Code Section 4757.36(C) (1) and Ohio Administrative Code Section 4757-5-04 (C).
3. PIERCE ADMITS the allegation referenced in paragraphs 2 above.

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

1. PIERCE'S license to practice social work is hereby suspended for three (3) years beginning November 16, 2012 through November 16, 2015. It is PIERCE'S responsibility to renew her license when appropriate if she intends to return to practice.
2. After the mandated suspension and upon employment, PIERCE must be monitored in all aspects of her practice of social work and receive face-to-face monitoring at the rate of one hour every two weeks for a two (2) year period. PIERCE'S monitor must be pre-approved by the BOARD and should not have a prior relationship with PIERCE. If a previous relationship exists, PIERCE must provide full disclosure of such a relationship in the request for monitor approval. All cost associated with monitoring will be at PIERCE'S expense. The request for monitor approval must be made in writing, include a copy of the monitor's vita and be submitted no later than two weeks after the signing of this consent agreement. Monitoring should focus on, but not be limited to, ethical decision making, multiple relationships and standards of care. Monitoring should be considered training in nature and should not be limited to simply approving and denying case plans. PIERCE'S monitor must submit quarterly reports to the BOARD for the entire two year period detailing topics discussed during monitoring sessions, areas of concern, areas of improvement and make a recommendation with regards to PIERCE'S suitability to practice. However, if PIERCE'S monitor is concerned with PIERCE'S practice at any time during the probationary period the BOARD should be notified immediately. It is PIERCE'S responsibility to ensure that the BOARD receives all monitoring reports.

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, PIERCE 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. PIERCE 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. Should the licensee 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).

PIERCE 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 Section 2301.373(E), the BOARD may be required to provide PIERCE'S social security number to requesting governmental agencies.

Consent Agreement between LAURI C. PIERCE and the State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage and Family Therapist Board

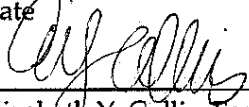
The **BOARD** shall incorporate this **CONSENT AGREEMENT** into a formal journal entry at its November 16, 2012 meeting.

This **CONSENT AGREEMENT** shall take effect upon the date of the last signature below:



Lauri C. Pierce, LISW-SUPV

11/8/2012

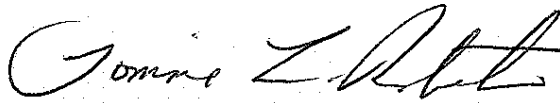
Date


Elizabeth Y. Collis, Esq.
Counsel for Pierce

11-15-12

Date

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



Tommie Robertson, LIMFT
Chair, Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage and Family Therapist Board

11-15-12

Date

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

Date