

Mr. Stepp completed the terms of the consent agreement as of 10/27/2005

**CONSENT AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
WILLIAM M. STEPP, JR.  
AND THE  
STATE OF OHIO COUNSELOR AND SOCIAL WORKER BOARD**

This CONSENT AGREEMENT is entered into by and between WILLIAM M. STEPP, JR., hereinafter, "**STEPP**", and the STATE OF OHIO COUNSELOR AND SOCIAL WORKER BOARD, hereinafter "**BOARD**", the state agency charged with enforcing Chapter 4757 of the Ohio Revised Code and all rules promulgated thereunder.

**STEPP** 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.

**STEPP** 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 that 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. **STEPP** is a professional clinical counselor (E-2392) 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. **STEPP** received his clinical counselor license on March 21, 1997.

2. On or about April 1, 2001, **STEPP** was employed at Netcare Corporation in Columbus, Ohio. **STEPP** saw a female client for an assessment. Several months later, the client called **STEPP** requesting they become "Christian friends". **STEPP** agreed to this and over the next six months, **STEPP** and the client went for coffee, went to a local park, met at the client's mother's home, and went for a meal at a local restaurant. The client also stopped by **STEPP'S** home and gave him decorating advice. **STEPP** was terminated from Netcare for these actions. **STEPP'S** conduct constitutes a violation of Ohio Revised Code Section 4757.36(A)(1) and Ohio Administrative Code Section 4757-5-01(C)(1) and (2).
3. **STEPP** admits the statements referenced in paragraphs 1 through 2 referenced above.

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

1. **STEPP'S** professional clinical counselor license (E-2392) is REPRMANDED.
2. **STEPP** may not enter into private practice until January 2005. **STEPP** will keep the **BOARD** notified of where he is employed until January 2005. **STEPP** must provide a copy of this Consent Agreement to his clinical supervisor in any mental health position he accepts.
3. Once **STEPP** secures employment, **STEPP** must enter into two years of counseling with a pre-approved mental health care provider. **STEPP** will provide the name, address, and phone number of the person he would like to receive counseling from to the Investigative Supervisor of the **BOARD** for approval. Once approved, **STEPP** will ensure that the mental health provider

provide the Investigative Supervisor of the Board with a written report every three months.

4. **STEPP** must take an additional 6 hours of continuing education in the area of professional ethics. These 6 hours must be pre-approved by the **BOARD'S** Investigative Supervisor, or his designee. These additional 6 hours will not count toward the 30 hours **STEPP** needs to renew his license. **STEPP** must complete these additional 6 hours by July 1, 2004.

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, **STEPP** 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. **STEPP** 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.

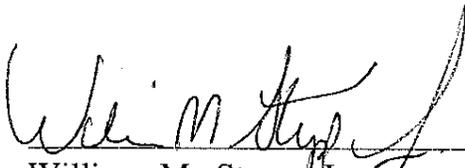
Should **STEPP** fail to comply with any provisions of this CONSENT AGREEMENT, **STEPP** knowingly waives his rights under ORC Chapter 119. Following notice and an evidentiary hearing, not an Ohio Revised Code Chapter 119 hearing, if **STEPP** is found by the **BOARD** to have violated any terms of this Consent Agreement, the **BOARD** may impose any penalty up to and including REVOCATION of **STEPP'S** professional clinical counselor license based solely upon a violation of this Consent Agreement. **STEPP** may not appeal this action.

**STEPP** 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 **STEPP'S** social security number to requesting governmental agencies.

The **BOARD** shall incorporate this CONSENT AGREEMENT into a formal journal entry at its November 22, 2002 meeting.

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William M. Stepp, Jr.

11-18-02  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Counsel for Mr. Stepp

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

THE OHIO COUNSELOR AND  
SOCIAL WORKER BOARD

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Counselor and Social Worker Board's  
*Counselor Professional Standards Committee*

11-22-02  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Petrella, Esq.  
Assistant Attorney General  
Counselor and Social Worker Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date