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04/28/95 10:00 AM
04/28/95

**CONSENT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
ERIC STAPLES
AND THE**

STATE OF OHIO COUNSELOR AND SOCIAL WORKER BOARD

This CONSENT AGREEMENT is entered into by and between ERIC STAPLES, hereinafter, "STAPLES", 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.

STAPLES 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.

STAPLES 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. Should STAPLES fail to comply with any provisions of this CONSENT AGREEMENT, STAPLES knowingly waives his 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, admissions and understandings:

1. **STAPLES** is a social worker (S-20914) 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. **STAPLES** received his social work license on January 20, 1995.

2. **STAPLES** was employed as a social worker at the Ohio Department of Mental Health Summit Behavioral Healthcare, Cincinnati, Ohio, from June 25, 1995, through May 22, 2001. From on or about November 2000 through on and about April 2001, while employed at Summit Behavioral Healthcare, **STAPLES** blurred his professional boundaries by (a) remaining in contact that was unapproved by his supervisors with a minor female client after she left Summit Behavioral Healthcare, (b) taking the minor ex-client to lunch without the permission of the minor's parent, and (c) taking the minor ex-client to the New Town Nature Preserve without the permission of the minor's parent. **STAPLES'** conduct is a violation of Ohio Revised Code Section 4757.36(A)(1) and Ohio Administrative Code Section 4757-5-01(C)(1) and (2).
3. **STAPLES** 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, **STAPLES** knowingly and voluntarily agrees with the **BOARD** to the following terms and conditions:

- A. **STAPLES'** social work license is SUSPENDED for six (6) months from the date of this Consent Agreement.
- B. **STAPLES** agrees to have no further contact with the client referenced in paragraph 2 above.

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**, **STAPLES** 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. **STAPLES** 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.

STAPLES 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 **STAPLES'** social security number to requesting governmental agencies.

The **BOARD** shall incorporate this CONSENT AGREEMENT into a formal journal entry at its September 2001, meeting.

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

The client did tell her mother that we were going to lunch before we went to lunch.

THE OHIO COUNSELOR AND
SOCIAL WORKER BOARD

Eric Staples
Eric Staples

Jane Daroff LSW
Jane Daroff
Chair, Counselor and Social Worker Board

Date

9/21/01
Date

Counsel for Mr. Staples

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

Date

9/21/01
Date