

Consent Agreement between Kathy A. Neeley and the State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist Board

*Attorney
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**CONSENT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
KATHY A. NEELEY
AND THE
STATE OF OHIO COUNSELOR, SOCIAL WORKER, MARRIAGE AND
FAMILY THERAPIST BOARD**

This CONSENT AGREEMENT is entered into by and between **KATHY A. NEELEY**, hereinafter, "**NEELEY**" 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.

NEELEY 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. **NEELEY** 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. **NEELEY** is a social worker (S-0021199) 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 Section 4757 and Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 4757. **NEELEY** received her social worker license on March 17, 1995.
2. In October 2013, **NEELEY**, while at an agency in Cincinnati prepared an assessment on a person she was in a personal relationship with. This action constitutes a violation of O.R.C. 4757.36 (C) (1), O.A.C 4757-5-03 (A).
3. **NEELEY** admits the allegations referenced in paragraphs 2.

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

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Therapist Board

1. NEELEY must take three (3) hours in continuing education in ethics. The continuing education must be pre-approved in writing by the Board's Deputy Director or his designee. Once NEELEY successfully completes the hours, NEELEY must send verification directly to the attention of the Investigation Unit at the Board office. The verification of completion is due in the Board office no later than April 15, 2014. The hours earned from the three continuing education hours may not be used toward the thirty (30) hours of continuing education required for license renewal. All costs associated with the course are at the expense of NEELEY.
2. NEELEY must be monitored in all aspects of her practice of social work and receive face-to-face monitoring at the rate of one hour per every forty hours of work for a two (2) year period. NEELEY'S monitor must be pre-approved by the BOARD, hold an independent social worker license and should not have a prior relationship with NEELEY. If a previous relationship exists, NEELEY must provide full disclosure of such a relationship in the request for monitor approval. All cost associated with monitoring will be at NEELEY'S expense. The request for monitor approval must be made in writing include a copy of the monitor's vita. Monitoring should focus on, but not be limited to, ethical decision making, confidentiality, 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. NEELEY'S monitor must submit quarterly reports to the BOARD for the entire period detailing topics discussed during monitoring sessions, areas of concern, areas of improvement and make a recommendation with regards to NEELEY'S suitability to practice. However, if NEELEY'S monitor is concerned with NEELEY'S practice at any time during the probationary period the BOARD should be notified immediately. NEELEY must submit a report upon completion of the monitoring period identifying how the monitoring has impacted ethical decision making, and areas of professional development. It is NEELEY'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, NEELEY 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. NEELEY 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.

NEELEY hereby releases the members of the BOARD, its officers and employees, jointly and severally, from any and all liability arising from the matter within.

