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

IN APRIL, 2010, WHILE EMPLOYED AT AN AGENCY IN MEDINA, OHIO, MS. BARBER VIOLATED PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES WITH A CLIENT IN A JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY BY ALLOWING A CLIENT TO RUB HER LEG, AND HOLDING HANDS WITH THE CLIENT DURING A SESSION. THIS ACTION CONSTITUTES A VIOLATION OF ORC 4757.36 (C)(1) AND OAC 4757-5-03 (A). MS. BARBER IS REQUIRED TO WORK UNDER SUPERVISION FOR A PERIOD OF 2 YEARS. MS. BARBER HAS COMPLETED THE TERMS OF HER CONSENT AGREEMENT, 10/03/2012.

This CONSENT AGREEMENT is entered into by and between **MELANIE BARBER**, hereinafter, "**BARBER**" 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.

**BARBER** 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. **BARBER** 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:

**License # S-0028656**

1. **BARBER** is a social worker (S-0028651) 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. **BARBER** received her social worker license on July 21, 2001.
2. In April, 2010, while employed at an agency in Medina , Ohio, **BARBER** violated professional boundaries with a client in a juvenile detention facility by allowing a client to rub her leg, and holding hands with the client during a session. This action constitutes a violation of O.R.C. 4757.36 (C)(1) and O.A.C. 4757-5-03 (A)
3. **BARBER** admits the allegation 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, **BARBER** knowingly and voluntarily agrees with the **BOARD** to the following terms and conditions:

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

1. **BARBER** 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 twenty hours of work for a two (2) year period. **BARBER'S** monitor must be pre-approved by the **BOARD** and should not have a prior relationship with **BARBER**. If a previous relationship exists, **BARBER** must provide full disclosure of such a relationship in the request for monitor approval. All cost associated with monitoring will be at **BARBER'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. **BARBER'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 **BARBER'S** suitability to practice. However, if **BARBER'S** monitor is concerned with **BARBER'S** practice at any time during the probationary period the **BOARD** should be notified immediately. It is **BARBER'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, **BARBER** 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. **BARBER** 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.

**BARBER** 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 3123.41 et seq., the **BOARD** may be required to provide **BARBER'S** social security number to requesting governmental agencies.

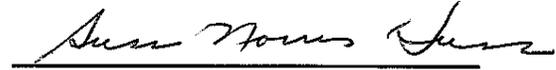
The **BOARD** shall incorporate this CONSENT AGREEMENT into a formal journal entry at its \_\_\_\_\_ JULY \_\_\_\_\_, 2010, meeting.

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

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Melanie Barber, LSW

6-21-10  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Norris Huss, Ph.D., PC  
Chair, Counselor, Social Worker,  
Marriage and Family Therapist Board

7-15-10  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leah V. B. O'Carroll, Esq.  
Assistant Attorney General  
Counselor, Social worker, Marriage and  
Family Therapist Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date