

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

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

This CONSENT AGREEMENT is entered into by and between **CARA SUSSMAN** hereinafter, "**SUSSMAN**," 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.

SUSSMAN 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.

SUSSMAN 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, admissions and understandings:

1. **SUSSMAN** is a professional clinical counselor (E.0800162-SUPV) 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 and Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 4757. **SUSSMAN** received her professional clinical counselor license on September 28, 2011.
2. On or about March through August 2024, while working at her solo private practice based in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, **SUSSMAN** provided individual counseling to multiple members of a family and provided court testimony including derogatory testimony and recommendations for custody. **SUSSMAN'S** actions constitute a violation of Ohio Revised Code 4757.36(C)(1) and Ohio Administrative Code Section OAC 4757-5-03 (A) and OAC4757.6-01 (F).
3. **SUSSMAN** admits to the statements referenced in paragraph 2.

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

1. **SUSSMAN'S** license to practice Counseling is hereby **REPRIMANDED**.
2. **SUSSMAN** must be monitored in all aspects of her counseling practice and receive bi-weekly face-to-face monitoring for two (2) years. **SUSSMAN'S** monitor must be pre-approved by the **BOARD** and should not have a prior relationship with **SUSSMAN**. All costs, if any, associated with supervised monitoring are at **SUSSMAN'S** expense. The request for monitor approval must be submitted in writing and include a copy of the monitor's résumé or curriculum vitae to the **BOARD'S** Compliance Officer. **SUSSMAN** may not start any employment as an LPCC until this supervised monitoring requirement is in place. **SUSSMAN'S** monitor must be an on-site supervisor at the agency where **SUSSMAN** is employed. The mandated supervising monitor must have access to all of **SUSSMAN'S** client charts and files.

Supervised monitoring should focus on, but not be limited to, ethical decision making, personal accountability, record keeping, professional boundaries and treatment issues. Supervised monitoring should be considered training in nature and should not be limited to simply approving or denying case plans. **SUSSMAN'S** supervised monitor must submit quarterly reports to the **BOARD'S** Compliance Officer for the entire monitoring period detailing topics discussed in monitoring sessions, areas of concern, and areas of improvement and make a recommendation with regards to **SUSSMAN'S** suitability to practice.

It is **SUSSMAN'S** responsibility to ensure that the **BOARD** receives all monitoring reports. If at any time **SUSSMAN'S** monitor believes that **SUSSMAN'S** ability to practice as an LPCC is compromised, **SUSSMAN'S** monitor must report this to the **BOARD** immediately. **SUSSMAN'S** failure to obtain mandatory supervised monitoring at the required rate shall be considered non-compliant with this requirement. **SUSSMAN** must immediately notify the **BOARD** in writing if she leaves her employment for any reason.

3. **SUSSMAN** shall submit proof of successful completion of the following exams: Ethics and Boundaries Assessment Services (www.ebas.org) -Unprofessional Conduct by October 10, 2025. These exams are at the expense of **SUSSMAN**.

It is hereby agreed by and between both parties that this CONSENT AGREEMENT hereby settles all issues concerning this matter.

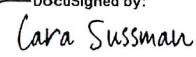
By her signature on this CONSENT AGREEMENT, **SUSSMAN** acknowledges that in the event the **BOARD**, in its discretion, does not approve this CONSENT AGREEMENT, this settlement offer is withdrawn and shall be of no evidentiary value and shall not be relied upon or introduced in any disciplinary action or appeal by either party.

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SUSSMAN 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. **SUSSMAN** 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. All parties to this Consent Agreement understand that this information will be sent to the United States Department of Health and Human Services' National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB), pursuant to Title IV of Public Law 99-660, the Healthcare Quality Improvement Act of 1986, as amended; Section 1921 of the Social Security Act; and Section 1128E of the Social Security Act, as amended by Section 221(a) of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. The **BOARD** shall incorporate this CONSENT AGREEMENT into a formal journal entry at its July 2025 meeting.

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

DocuSigned by:

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Cara Sussman, LPCC-S

6/10/2025

Date



Brian Carnahan
Executive Director, Counselor, Social Worker,
Marriage and Family Therapist Board

6/10/25

Date

Kenton Steele
Signer ID: KGCTLMSH12
Kenton H. Steele, Esq.
Counsel for Ms. Sussman

6/10/2025

Date



Douglas Unver, Esq.
Senior Assistant Attorney General
Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family
Therapist Board
7/10/25

Date