

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

This CONSENT AGREEMENT is entered into by and between **SHELLEY LOPEZ**, hereinafter, "**LOPEZ**" 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.

LOPEZ 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. **LOPEZ** 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. **LOPEZ** is an independent marriage and family therapist (F.0000085) licensed to practice marriage and family therapy in the State of Ohio and is subject to the laws and rules of Ohio regulating the practice of marriage and family therapy as outlined in Ohio Revised Code Section 4757 and Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 4757. **LOPEZ** received her marriage and family therapist license on May 21, 2004.
2. On or about 2012, while employed at a mental health agency in Springfield, Ohio, **LOPEZ** blurred her professional boundaries by allowing a current client to become a volunteer of the agency and allowing the client to stay at her personal residence on multiple occasions. **LOPEZ'S** conduct constitutes a violation of O.R.C. 4757.36 (C)(1) and O.A.C. 4757-5-03 (A)(3) and (4)(b)(g).
3. On or about 2012, while employed at a mental health agency in Springfield Ohio, **LOPEZ** did not properly terminate with a client as she did not provide appropriate referrals for continued services to the client.

LOPEZ'S conduct constitutes a violation of O.R.C. 4757.36 (C)(1) and O.A.C. 4757-5-02 (E)(1).

4. **LOPEZ** admits the statements referenced in paragraph 2 above. **LOPEZ** neither admits nor denies the statements referenced in paragraph 3 above.

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

1. The **BOARD** will allow **LOPEZ** to permanently surrender her independent marriage and family therapist license in lieu of other potential disciplinary action. This surrender is permanent and precludes **LOPEZ** from applying for a social worker or marriage and family therapist license in the State of Ohio in the future.
2. **LOPEZ** is also licensed as a licensed professional counselor (C.0005114) in the State of Ohio. **LOPEZ** is not permitted to be in solo private practice as an LPC.

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, **LOPEZ** 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. **LOPEZ** 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.

LOPEZ 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 January 2021, meeting.

Consent Agreement between Shelley Lopez 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's Executive Director's signature below:

Shelley R. Lopez MS,LPC
Shelley Lopez, IMFT

Date

JK

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

1-21-2021

Date