

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA
BOARD OF LICENSED
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

IN THE MATTER OF:

PATRICIA FLOWERS, LPC
Respondent.
No. 1661

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CONSENT ORDER

THIS CAUSE, coming on to be heard and being heard before the North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors ("the Board"), at its meeting on January 26, 2018, pursuant to a charge letter issued by the Board on November 14, 2017, which is now pending; and

IT APPEARING to the Board that the Respondent has stipulated to certain facts and to the entry of a Consent Order in conformity therewith;

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED by the undersigned Respondent and the Board that:

1. Respondent was at all times relevant to this cause a licensed professional counselor and is subject to the Board's jurisdiction pursuant to the North Carolina Licensed Professional Counselors Act, Chapter 90, Article 24 of the North Carolina General Statutes.
2. Respondent provided counseling services to client X through an agency in North Carolina. On or about March 25, 2017, Respondent personally rented a car from Enterprise Rent-A-Car for client X to use to drive out of state on a weekend pass. Client X told Respondent that she was trying to leave the state for family visitation after a death in her family and Respondent agreed to rent a car for her. Respondent rented the car in Respondent's name and listed Respondent as the only driver. Respondent gave the keys to the car to client X and told her to be back on the agreed upon date. The client did not return and was arrested out of state for assault. Respondent notified Enterprise Rent-A-Car and the car was recovered.
3. Respondent admits that her conduct as set forth above in paragraph number 2 violates: Sections A 4.a., A 6.b., A 6.c, I 1.b., and I. 2.c., of the American Counseling Association Code of Ethics (2014); and N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 90-340 (a)(9) and (a)(10) of the NC Licensed Professional Counselors Act.
4. The Board and Respondent wish to avoid the time and the costs associated with full litigation of this matter and, in lieu of any proceedings, enter into this Consent Order.
5. Respondent expressly waives notice of hearing, a hearing, the making of findings of fact and conclusions of law, and all further proceedings before the Board to which the Respondent may be entitled by law. Respondent further agrees that presentation of this Consent Order to the Board for approval shall not constitute improper ex parte communication between the Board and its counsel, or the Board and its staff, nor require the recusal of the members of the Board from consideration of

this matter before the full Board, should a hearing be required in this case.

6. Respondent forever releases the State of North Carolina, the North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors, and all its members, officials, agents, representatives and employees, both past and present, in their individual or official capacities from any and all liability, suits, claims, and causes of action, arising prior to or as a result of the execution of this Consent Order.

7. Respondent waives the right to seek judicial review or to otherwise challenge the validity of this Consent Order in any court. Respondent understands and agrees that this Consent Order shall be effective only after approval by the full Board and signature of its Chairperson.

8. This Consent Order contains the entire agreement between the undersigned, there being no agreement of any kind, verbal or otherwise, which varies, alters, or adds to this Consent Order.

Based upon the record and the foregoing stipulations,

NOW, THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

- I. Respondent's license as a Licensed Professional Counselor is hereby REPRIMANDED.
- II. Respondent shall complete twelve hours of continuing education coursework in the area of appropriate boundaries with clients; at least six of the twelve hours shall be in person and the remaining hours may be on line. Upon successful completion of this continuing education coursework, Respondent shall submit a certificate of completion provided by the continuing education sponsor to the Board. This requirement shall be in addition to the continuing education coursework required for all licensees under Board rule. All costs associated with this continuing education shall be borne by Respondent. Respondent shall complete this continuing education within six months of the execution of this Consent Order.
- III. Respondent shall be supervised for a period of six months by a Board approved supervisor for one hour of individual face to face supervision per week during any week in which she practices counseling with no less than one supervision session per month. Respondent must file a supervision contract and the supervisor must be approved by the Board prior to the beginning of supervision. The supervision contract must be filed with the Board office no later than one month after entry of this Consent Order. The supervision shall focus on boundary issues with clients.
- IV. Respondent's supervisor shall submit a quarterly supervision report with the Board at the end of three months of supervision. At the conclusion of the six months of supervision, Respondent's Board approved supervisor shall submit a Final Supervision Report to the Board. Respondent must receive at least average ratings from her supervisor on all reports in order to be released from the supervision. If after the six months of supervision Respondent's supervisor believes that supervision should continue, then it would continue for an additional six months. Any costs and associated

expenses of this supervision shall be borne by the Respondent.

V. Respondent shall provide this Consent Order to her Board approved supervisor.

VI. Upon successful completion of the conditions set forth in Roman Numeral II through VI, Respondent may make a written request that the Board release her from supervision, which the Board shall grant so long as all conditions have been successfully completed.

VII. The failure of Respondent to abide by any provisions of this Consent Order, if proven true by a preponderance of the evidence following notice and an opportunity for hearing, shall result in the suspension, revocation, or other disciplinary action against Respondent's license, in the discretion of the Board.

VIII. The Board shall maintain this Consent Order as a public record pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §§132-1 and 90-340(f) and shall provide copies to the American Counseling Association and the National Board of Certified Counselors, and to other agencies or individuals as required by law.

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This the 26th day of January, 2018.

CONSENTED TO BY:

NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF
LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

BY: Wayne Mixon 1/26/18
Wayne Mixon date
Board Chairperson

Patricia Flowers 1/10/18
Patricia Flowers, LPC date
Respondent

Vicki F. Goldstein 1/10/2018
Vicki F. Goldstein date
Attorney for Respondent

Patricia Flowers, LPC presented
valid NC License [redacted] as
identification for signature on Jan. 10, 2018.

Stephanie A. Wegner

Exp. 10/25/21

