

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA
BOARD OF LICENSED
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
HEATHER BREESE, LPC)
Respondent.)
)
Case Number 1631)

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 April 12-13, 2018, pursuant to a Charge Letter issued by the Ethics Review Committee of the Board on December 21, 2017; 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 (LPC), 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 admits the following:
 - a. In 2014, Respondent provided counseling services in North Carolina to a minor child, client X, pursuant to a court order. Respondent also provided counseling services to her parents, BB and GP, beginning in 2014. In October 2014, Respondent discontinued counseling client X’s father, GP, but continued counseling client X and her mother, BB. Respondent terminated counseling services with client BB and client X in July 2015. In October 2015, after ending counseling services with client GP, Respondent began a romantic relationship with him, which has been ongoing.
 - b. Respondent did not submit a written response to the complaint, even though it was sent on two occasions via certified mail. Respondent states that she did not receive the certified letter requesting a response until September 2017, because she moved from her previous address. Respondent did meet with the Board investigator in this matter for an interview.
3. Respondent admits that the conduct described in Paragraphs 2a through b above, constitutes violations of Sections A.5.a. & A.5.c. of the American Counseling Association Code of Ethics (2014), and violations of N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 90-340 (a)(9) & (a)(15) 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 and findings,

NOW, THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

I. The license of the undersigned Respondent is hereby REVOKED.

II. No later than April 30, 2018, Respondent shall cease to engage in any activities that meet the definition of the practice of counseling under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-330(a)(3), or fall under the prohibitions set forth in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-331.

III. Respondent has represented that she cannot find her license to practice counseling in North Carolina. No later than April 30, 2018, Respondent shall submit an Affidavit attesting that she has misplaced her license as an LPC and that if she locates it she shall immediately mail it to the Board Office at: North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors, Post Office Box 77819, Greensboro, North Carolina 27417. No later than April 30, 2018, Respondent shall also submit an Affidavit attesting that she has ceased to engage in any activities that meets the definition of the

practice of counseling, as defined in NC. Gen. Stat. § 90-330(a)(3), or fall under the prohibitions set forth in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-331.

IV. Should Respondent apply to this Board for licensure at any time in the future, the Board shall have access to its entire investigative file for purposes of considering such application.

V. The failure of Respondent to abide by any provisions of this Consent Order shall result in further action by the Board, including seeking an injunction in Superior Court, in the discretion of the Board.

VI. 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.

[The rest of this page is intentionally left blank].

This the 12 day of April, 2018.

CONSENTED TO BY:

NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF
LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

BY: Wayne Mixon
Wayne Mixon, MBA date
Board Chairperson

Heather Breese 4/2/2018
Heather Breese, LPC date
Respondent