

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA  
BOARD OF LICENSED  
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

IN THE MATTER OF:

PATRICIA LITWIN, LPC  
Respondent.  
No. 1677

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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 April 11, 2019, pursuant to a charge letter issued by the Board on May 18, 2018, 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. At various times during the period from August 2012 to July 2014, Respondent provided counseling services to client X related to emotional issues regarding her personal life and career matters. Respondent terminated counseling services to client X on July 17, 2014, and during Respondent's last counseling session with client X, Respondent told client X that any employer would be lucky to have her work for him/her. On July 18, 2014, client X called Respondent and asked if Respondent would hire her to work at Respondent's practice. On July 25, 2014, after completing a review of the ACA Ethics Code, Respondent contacted client X and approved her request to work at Respondent's practice. Subsequently, on October 20, 2014, Respondent signed a contract with client X for her to begin working at Respondent's practice as an independent contractor providing mental health services, and she began working in Respondent's practice immediately thereafter.
3. During the evening of June 18, 2015, at which time client X was working at Respondent's practice and less than one year following her termination as Respondent's client, Respondent invited client X and her husband to join Respondent and her husband at a party at Respondent's home. At this time, client X's husband was also working in Respondent's practice in a non-clinical capacity.
4. Respondent admits that her conduct as set forth above in paragraph number 2-3 violates Section A.6.e., and B.3.c., of the American Counseling Association Code of Ethics (2014), and violates N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 90-340 (a)(9) of the North Carolina Licensed Professional Counselors Act.
5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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 CENSURED.

II. Respondent's license as a Licensed Professional Counselor shall be placed on PROBATION for a period of at least one year or until she successfully completes the following, whichever takes longer to occur:

III. Respondent shall complete a three hour graduate level counseling course in ethics for counselors, as set forth in Rule .0701 (2)(c). This course work may be completed on line or in person at a regionally accredited institute of higher education and may be completed in an independent study course. Upon successful completion of this coursework, Respondent shall submit a transcript from the institute establishing that the course work has been successfully completed, with a grade of "B" or above. All costs associated with this coursework shall be borne by Respondent. Respondent shall complete this coursework within one year of the execution of this Consent Order.

IV. Respondent shall be supervised/consult with a supervisor for a period of one year by a Board approved supervisor for one hour of individual face to face confidential online or in person supervision/consultation for every two weeks of counseling practice for issues in her practice that may arise, regardless of the number of hours of counseling practice. Respondent must file a supervision/consultation contract and the supervisor must be approved by the Board prior to the beginning of supervision/consultation. The supervision/consultation contract must be filed with the Board office no later than one month after this Consent Order is executed by the Board.

V. Respondent's supervisor shall submit quarterly supervision reports with the Board at the end of each quarter of supervision/consultation regarding issues that may arise in her counseling practice. At the conclusion of the one year of supervision/consultation, Respondent's Board approved supervisor shall submit a Final Supervision/Consultation 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/consultation. Any costs and associated expenses of this supervision/consultation shall be borne by Respondent.

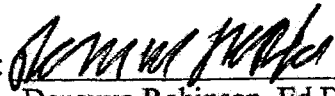
- VI. Respondent shall provide a copy of this Consent Order to her Board approved supervisor.
- VII. Upon successful completion of the conditions set forth in Roman Numeral II through VI, Respondent may make a written request that the Board release her from supervision/consultation, which the Board shall grant so long as all conditions have been successfully completed.
- VIII. Respondent shall not hire a former client either as an employee or a contractor at any time in the future.
- IX. 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.
- X. 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.

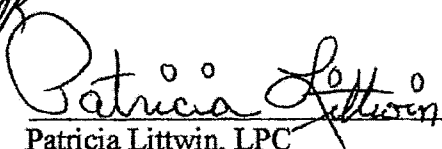
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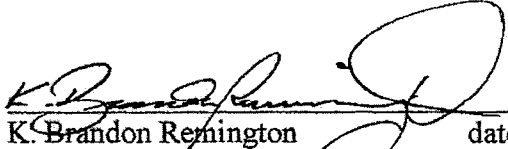
This the <sup>11</sup>~~5th~~ day of April, 2019.

CONSENTED TO BY:

NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF  
LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

BY:  4/5/19  
Denauvo Robinson, Ed.D., LPCS      date  
Board Chairperson

 4/5/19  
Patricia Littwin, LPC      date  
Respondent

      date  
K. Brandon Remington  
Attorney for Respondent  
Remington and Dixon, PLLC  
Attorneys and Counselor at Law