

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF LICENSED
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS
STATE OF OREGON**

In the Matter of:)	Agency Case No. 2008-018
)	
NANCY L. STERNS, LPC)	
)	
Respondent.)	SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND STIPULATED FINAL ORDER

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

1.

The Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists (Board) is the state agency responsible for licensing, regulating and disciplining Licensed Professional Counselors and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists in the State of Oregon.

2.

At all relevant times material herein, Nancy Sterns (Respondent) had been licensed with the Board as a Licensed Professional Counselor, License No. C1453. The Board has jurisdiction over the Respondent under ORS 675.705 to 675.835. Hereinafter Respondent and the Board are collectively referred to as the "Parties."

3.

The Parties desire to settle this matter and, pursuant to ORS 183.415(3), stipulate and agree as follows in full and complete settlement of the complaint currently pending, subject to final approval by the Board:

- 3.1 The Stipulated Final Order below may be issued and entered.
- 3.2 The Stipulated Final Order is a public document.
- 3.3 The facts as alleged by the Board are that in August 2006 and January 2008, Client A informed Respondent that Client A's minor child (Child) had disclosed

sexual abuse. Client A requested that Respondent assess Child to determine if the Child had been sexually abused.

Respondent violated her mandatory child abuse reporting responsibility in August 2006 and in January 2008 when she failed to report this suspected child sexual abuse to the appropriate authorities. Respondent also conducted three separate counseling sessions with Child, Client A and Stepfather. Client A attended all of the counseling sessions and stepfather attended the last two counseling sessions with the Child. Respondent's own notes indicate that the purpose of the sessions was to "assess for child sexual abuse." Child was asked in both Client A and stepfather's presence if stepfather had sexually abused Child. Child was never allowed to meet with Respondent alone, or without the stepfather after the first session.

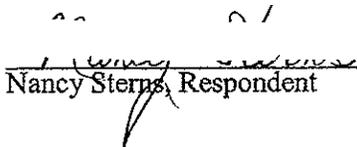
- 3.4 Respondent does not admit or make any admissions of the facts as alleged in ¶ 3.3.
- 3.5 Respondent agrees after issuance of the Final Order below that she will voluntarily relinquish her license to practice as a Licensed Professional Counselor.
- 3.6 Respondent also agrees to never reapply or seek reinstatement of her LPC license, to never apply for a new LPC or LMFT license, and to never apply for or reapply to practice as a LPC or LMFT in the State of Oregon.
- 3.7 Respondent is prohibited from using the title of, purporting to be, or practicing as a Licensed Professional Counselor or Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, or using any other title that includes those words.
- 3.8 The Board will not report this action to the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB).
- 3.9 The Board will report this action to the Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank (HIPDB).

- 3.10 Respondent has been fully advised of her right to notice and a contested case hearing under the Oregon Administrative Procedures Act (ORS Chapter 183), and fully and finally waives all such rights and any rights to appeal or otherwise challenge this Settlement Agreement and Stipulated Final Order.
- 3.11 Entry of the Final Order below in no way limits or prevents further remedies, sanctions, or actions which may be available to the Board to enforce the Final Order, for violations of the Final Order, for conduct or actions of Respondent not covered by the Final Order, or against a party not covered by the Final Order; Respondent acknowledges by her signature below that she fully understands the terms of this Settlement Agreement and Stipulated Final Order. Respondent declares that she has carefully reviewed the terms of this Settlement Agreement and consents to the issuance and entry of the Final Order below, that she knows the contents thereof, that she has had adequate opportunity to consult with others of her choosing, including legal counsel, and that she has voluntarily accepted the terms set forth herein.

4.

This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties in accordance with Oregon law. No waiver, consent, modification or change of terms of this Agreement shall bind any party unless in writing and signed by all parties. Such waiver, consent, modification or change, if made, shall be effective only in the specific instance and for the specific purpose given. There are no understandings, agreements or representations, oral or written, not specified herein regarding this Agreement. The Board and Respondent, by their signatures, hereby acknowledge that they have read this Agreement, understand it, and agree to be bound by its terms and conditions.

IT IS SO STIPULATED AND AGREED TO BY:



Nancy Sterns, Respondent

Dated: Jan. 8, 2009

Approved as to Form:



Brian J. Millington
Counsel for Respondent

Dated: 1/8/09

**BOARD OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL
COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS
State of Oregon**

By: 

Martin Schultz, Chair

Dated: 1/23/09

FINAL ORDER

Based on the stipulations and settlement between the Parties set forth above, which is incorporated herein by this reference, it is hereby **ORDERED** that:

1. Respondent Nancy Sterns will surrender her license to the Board effective upon the date this Stipulated Final Order is issued and will no longer be a Licensed Professional Counselor;
2. Respondent shall forever be prohibited from: (a) reapplying for or seeking reinstatement of her LPC license; (b) applying for a new LPC or LMFT license; and (c) applying for or reapplying to practice as an LPC or LMFT in the State of Oregon pursuant to ORS 675.745(6); and
3. Respondent is prohibited from using the title of, purporting to be, or practicing as a Licensed Professional Counselor or Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, or using any other title that includes those words pursuant to ORS 675.825(1).

