

1 **BEFORE THE ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EXAMINERS**

2 **In the Matter of:**

CASE NO. 2016-0071

3 **Christina M. Griffin, LASAC-15138,**
4 **Licensed Associate Substance Abuse**
5 **Counselor,**
6 **In the State of Arizona.**

RELEASE FROM
CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

RESPONDENT

7
8 The Board received a request from Respondent to release them from the terms and
9 conditions of the Consent Agreement and Order dated January 11, 2016. After consideration,
10 the Board voted to release Respondent from the terms and conditions of the Consent
11 Agreement and Order dated January 11, 2016.


12 **ORDER**

13 **GOOD CAUSE APPEARING, IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

14 Respondent is hereby released from all terms and conditions of the Consent Agreement
15 and Order dated January 11, 2016.

16 Dated this 6th day of March, 2017.

17
18 By:


19 **TOBIN ZAVALA, Executive Director**
Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners

20 **ORIGINAL** of the foregoing filed

This 6th day of March, 2017, with:

21 Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners
22 3443 N. Central Ave., Suite 1700
23 Phoenix, AZ 85012

24 **COPY** of the foregoing mailed via

Certified mail no. 70141700000006339783
This 6th day of March, 2017, to:

25 Christina M. Griffin
Address of Record

1 3. Respondent has the right to consult with an attorney prior to entering into this
2 Consent Agreement.

3 4. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that upon signing this Consent
4 Agreement and returning it to the Board's Executive Director, Respondent may not revoke her
5 acceptance of this Consent Agreement or make any modifications to it. Any modification of this
6 original document is ineffective and void unless mutually approved by the parties in writing.

7 5. The findings contained in the Findings of Fact portion of this Consent Agreement
8 are conclusive evidence of the facts stated herein and may be used for purposes of determining
9 sanctions in any future disciplinary matter.

10 6. This Consent Agreement is subject to the Board's approval, and will be effective
11 only when the Board accepts it. In the event the Board in its discretion does not approve this
12 Consent Agreement, this Consent Agreement is withdrawn and shall be of no evidentiary value,
13 nor shall it be relied upon or introduced in any disciplinary action by any party hereto, except
14 that Respondent agrees that should the Board reject this Consent Agreement and this case
15 proceeds to hearing, Respondent shall assert no claim that the Board was prejudiced by its
16 review and discussion of this document or of any records relating thereto.

17 7. Respondent understands that once the Board approves and signs this Consent
18 Agreement, it is a public record that may be publicly disseminated as a formal action of the
19 Board, and that it shall be reported as required by law to the National Practitioner Data Bank.

20 8. Respondent further understands that any violation of this Consent Agreement
21 constitutes unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(n) and may result in
22 disciplinary action pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3281.

23 9. The Board therefore retains jurisdiction over Respondent and may initiate
24 disciplinary action against Respondent if it determines t has failed to comply with the terms of
25 this Consent Agreement or of the practice act.

1 The Board issues the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order.

2 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

3 1. Respondent is the holder of License No. LASAC-15138 for the practice of
4 substance abuse in Arizona.

5 2. On 07/12/15, Respondent was charged with theft from Dillard's department store
6 where she worked part time.

7 3. The police officer's ("Officer") report indicated the following:

8 a. Officer responded to a call at Dillard's regarding an employee that was
9 seen on surveillance video placing several items of merchandise into a
10 bag for a male acquaintance ("Acquaintance").

11 b. Respondent was seen only charging Acquaintance for one item.

12 c. When questioned, Respondent reported the following to Officer:

13 i. When Acquaintance came into the store, he and Respondent went
14 to the checkout counter where she placed the items he had
15 selected in the bag.

16 ii. Respondent rang up a pair of socks and placed the other 8 or 9
17 items he had selected into a bag.

18 iii. Respondent gave the bag to Acquaintance and he left.

19 4. As a result of her charge, Respondent was required to pay Dillard's \$759.78 in
20 restitution and complete an 8 hour life skills course.

21 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

22 1. The Board has jurisdiction over Respondent pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3251 *et seq.*
23 and the rules promulgated by the Board relating to Respondent's professional practice as a
24 licensed behavioral health professional.

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1 **Probation**

2 6. Respondent's license, LASAC-15138, will be placed on probation for 24 months,
3 effective from the date of entry as signed below.

4 7. Respondent shall not practice under her license, LASAC-15138, unless she is
5 fully compliant with all terms and conditions in this Consent Agreement. If, for any reason,
6 Respondent is unable to comply with the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement, she
7 shall immediately notify the Board in writing and shall not practice under her license until she
8 submits a written request to the Board to re-commence compliance with this Consent
9 Agreement. All such requests shall be pre-approved by the Board Chair or designee.

10 8. In the event that Respondent is unable to comply with the terms and conditions
11 of this Consent Agreement, all remaining time frames shall be tolled and remain tolled until
12 such time as she is granted approval to re-commence compliance with the Consent
13 Agreement.

14 **Continuing Education**

15 9. In addition to the continuing education requirements of A.R.S. § 32-3273, within
16 12 months of the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent shall complete 6 clock
17 hours of the NASW Staying Out of Trouble continuing education course or an equivalent course.
18 All required continuing education shall be pre-approved by the Board Chair or designee. Upon
19 completion, Respondent shall submit a certificate of completion of the required continuing
20 education.

21 10. In addition to the continuing education requirements of A.R.S. § 32-3273, within
22 12 months of the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent shall take and pass a
23 three semester credit hour graduate level course in substance abuse counseling from an
24 accredited college or university, pre-approved by the Board Chair or designee. Upon

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1 completion, Respondent shall submit to the Board an official transcript establishing completion
2 of the required course.

3 Therapy

4 11. During the period of probation, Respondent shall attend therapy for 24 months
5 with a masters or higher level behavioral health professional licensed at the independent level.
6 Within 30 days of the date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent shall submit the name of her
7 therapist and the therapist's curriculum vitae for pre-approval by the Board Chair or designee.
8 Also within 30 days of the date of this Consent Agreement, the therapist shall submit a letter
9 addressing why he/she should be approved, acknowledging that he/she has reviewed the
10 Consent Agreement and include the results of an initial assessment and a treatment plan
11 regarding the proposed treatment of Respondent.

12 12. Upon approval, the Board will provide the therapist with copies of any required
13 evaluations completed at the request of the Board prior to this Consent Agreement and the
14 Board's investigative report.

15 Focus and Frequency of Therapy

16 13. The focus of the therapy shall relate to boundaries, personal growth, and self-
17 esteem. Respondent shall meet in person with the therapist monthly.

18 Reports

19 14. Once approved, the therapist shall submit quarterly reports and a final summary
20 report to the Board for review and approval. The quarterly reports shall include issues presented
21 in this Consent Agreement that need to be reported and the therapist shall notify the Board if
22 more frequent therapy is needed. The reports shall address Respondent's current mental health
23 status, medications prescribed, if any, treatment recommendation, and shall report if, in his/her
24 professional opinion, Respondent becomes unable to practice psychotherapy safely and

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1 competently. The final report shall also contain a recommendation as to whether the
2 Respondent should be released from this Consent Agreement.

3 Change of Therapist

4 15. In the event that, during the period of Respondent's probation, Respondent's
5 Board-approved therapist discontinues treatment, Respondent shall submit the name of a new
6 therapist and the therapist's curriculum vitae for pre-approval by the Board Chair or designee
7 within 30 days of the discontinued treatment. Also within 30 days of the date of the discontinued
8 treatment, the proposed therapist shall submit a letter addressing why he/she should be
9 approved, acknowledging that he/she has reviewed the Consent Agreement, and include the
10 results of an initial assessment and a treatment plan regarding the proposed treatment of
11 Respondent.

12 Early Release

13 16. After completion of the stipulations set forth in this Consent Agreement, and upon
14 the therapist's recommendation, Respondent may request early release from the Consent
15 Agreement after 12 months.

16 GENERAL PROVISIONS

17 Provision of Clinical Supervision

18 17. Respondent shall not provide clinical supervision while subject to this Consent
19 Agreement.

20 Civil Penalty

21 18. Subject to the provisions set forth in paragraph 19, the Board imposes a civil
22 penalty against the Respondent in the amount of \$1,000.00.

23 19. Respondent's payment of the civil penalty shall be stayed so long as Respondent
24 remains compliant with the terms of this Consent Agreement. If Board staff determines that
25 Respondent is noncompliant with the terms of this Consent Agreement in any respect, with the

1 exception of the tolling provision under Paragraph 8, the stay of the civil penalty payment shall
2 be automatically lifted and payment of the civil penalty shall be made by certified check or
3 money order payable to the Board within 30 days after being notified in writing of the lifting of
4 the stay.

5 20. Within 10 days of being notified of the lifting of the stay, Respondent may request
6 that the matter be reviewed by the Board for the limited purpose of determining whether the
7 automatic lifting of the stay was supported by substantial evidence. If the Board receives the
8 written request within 10 days or less of the next regularly scheduled Board meeting, the
9 request will not be heard at that meeting, but will be heard at the next regularly scheduled Board
10 meeting. The Board's decision on this matter shall not be subject to further review.

11 21. The Board reserves the right to take further disciplinary action against
12 Respondent for noncompliance with this Consent Agreement after affording Respondent notice
13 and an opportunity to be heard. If a complaint is filed against Respondent for failure to comply
14 with this Consent Agreement, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final
15 and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.

16 22. If Respondent currently sees clients in their own private practice, and obtains any
17 other type of behavioral health position, either as an employee or independent contractor, where
18 she provides behavioral health services to clients of another individual or agency, she shall
19 comply with requirements set forth in Paragraphs 23 through 25 below.

20 23. Within 10 days of the effective date of this Order, if Respondent is working in a
21 position where Respondent provides any type of behavioral health related services or works in a
22 setting where any type of behavioral health, health care, or social services are provided,
23 Respondent shall provide the Board Chair or designee with a signed statement from
24 Respondent's employer(s) confirming Respondent provided the employer(s) with a copy of this
25 Consent Agreement. If Respondent does not provide the employer's statement to the Board

1 within 10 days of the effective date, the Board will provide Respondent's employer(s) with a
2 copy of the Consent Agreement.

3 24. If Respondent is not employed as of the effective date of this Order, within 10
4 days of accepting employment in a position where Respondent provides any type of behavioral
5 health related services or in a setting where any type of behavioral health, health care, or social
6 services are provided, Respondent shall provide the Board Chair or designee with a written
7 statement providing the contact information of her new employer and a signed statement from
8 Respondent's new employer confirming Respondent provided the employer with a copy of this
9 Consent Agreement. If Respondent does not provide the employer's statement to the Board
10 within 10 days, as required, Respondent's failure to provide the required statement to the Board
11 shall be deemed a violation of A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(n) and the Board will provide Respondent's
12 employer(s) with a copy of the Consent Agreement.

13 25. If, during the period of Respondent's probation, Respondent changes
14 employment, resigns, is involuntarily terminated, resigns in lieu of termination, or goes on
15 extended leave of absence for whatever reason that may impact her ability to timely comply with
16 the terms of probation, Respondent shall, within 10 days of the aforementioned acts, inform the
17 Board of her change of employment status. After the change and within 10 days of accepting
18 employment in a position where Respondent provides any type of behavioral health related
19 services or in a setting where any type of behavioral health, health care, or social services are
20 provided, Respondent shall provide the Board Chair or designee a written statement providing
21 the contact information of her new employer(s) and a signed statement from Respondent's new
22 employer(s) confirming Respondent provided the employer(s) with a copy of this Consent
23 Agreement. If Respondent does not provide the employer's statement to the Board within 10
24 days, as required, Respondent's failure to provide the required statement to the Board shall be

25 ...

1 deemed a violation of A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(n) and the Board will provide Respondent's
2 employer(s) with a copy of the Consent Agreement.

3 26. Respondent shall practice behavioral health using the name under which she is
4 licensed. If Respondent changes her name, she shall advise the Board of the name change as
5 prescribed under the Board's regulations and rules.

6 27. Prior to the release of Respondent from probation, Respondent must submit a
7 written request to the Board for release from the terms of this Consent Agreement at least 30
8 days prior to the date she would like to have this matter appear before the Board. Respondent
9 may appear before the Board, either in person or telephonically. Respondent must provide
10 evidence that she has successfully satisfied all terms and conditions in this Consent Agreement.
11 The Board has the sole discretion to determine whether all terms and conditions of this Consent
12 Agreement have been met and whether Respondent has adequately demonstrated that she has
13 addressed the issues contained in this Consent Agreement. In the event that the Board
14 determines that any or all terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement have not been met,
15 the Board may conduct such further proceedings as it determines are appropriate to address
16 those matters.

17 28. Respondent shall bear all costs relating to probation terms required in this
18 Consent Agreement.

19 29. Respondent shall be responsible for ensuring that all documentation required in
20 this Consent Agreement is provided to the Board in a timely manner.

21 30. This Consent Agreement shall be effective on the date of entry below.

22 31. This Consent Agreement is conclusive evidence of the matters described herein
23 and may be considered by the Board in determining appropriate sanctions in the event a
24 subsequent violation occurs.

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1 **PROFESSIONAL ACCEPTS, SIGNS AND DATES THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT**

2
3 Christina M. Griffin

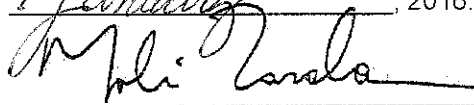
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5
6 Date

January 5, 2016

7 **BOARD ACCEPTS, SIGNS AND DATES THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT**

8 Dated this 11th day of January, 2016.

9 By:

10 

11 TOBI ZAVALA, Executive Director
12 Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners

13 **ORIGINAL** of the foregoing filed

14 This 11th day of January, 2016 with:

15 Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners
16 3443 N. Central Ave., Suite 1700
17 Phoenix, AZ 85012

18 **COPY** of the foregoing mailed via Interagency Mail

19 This 11th day of January, 2016, to:

20 Marc Harris
21 Assistant Attorney General
22 1275 West Washington
23 Phoenix, Arizona 85007

24 **COPY** of the foregoing mailed via

25 Certified mail no. 70142870000189573668

This 11th day of January, 2016, to:

Christina M. Griffin
Address of Record
Respondent