

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

2 **In the Matter of:**

**CASE NO. 2019-0123**

3 **Kara E. Thomas, LPC-17571,**  
4 **Licensed Professional Counselor,**  
5 **In the State of Arizona.**

**RELEASE FROM CONSENT AGREEMENT  
AND ORDER**


6 **RESPONDENT**

7 The Board received a request from Respondent to release them from the terms and  
8 conditions of the Consent Agreement and Order dated May 7<sup>th</sup> 2019. After consideration, the  
9 Board voted to release Respondent from the terms and conditions of the Consent Agreement  
10 and Order dated May 7<sup>th</sup> 2019.

11 **ORDER**

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

13 Respondent is hereby released from all terms and conditions of the Consent Agreement  
14 and Order dated May 7<sup>th</sup> 2019.

15 By: 

Jan 14, 2020

16 TOBI ZAVALA, Executive Director  
17 Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners

Date

18 **ORIGINAL** of the foregoing filed Jan 14, 2020  
19 with:

20 Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners  
21 1740 West Adams Street, Suite 3600  
22 Phoenix, AZ 85007

23 **EXECUTED COPY** of the foregoing sent electronically Jan 14, 2020  
24 to:

25 Kara E. Thomas  
Address of Record  
Respondent

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

**In the Matter of:**  
**Kara E. Thomas, LPC-17571,**  
**Licensed Professional Counselor,**  
**In the State of Arizona.**

**CASE NO. 2019-0123  
CONSENT AGREEMENT**

**RESPONDENT**

In the interest of a prompt and speedy settlement of the above captioned matter, consistent with the public interest, statutory requirements and responsibilities of the Arizona State Board of Behavioral Health Examiners ("Board"), and pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 32-3281(F) and 41-1092.07(F)(5), Kara E. Thomas ("Respondent") and the Board enter into this Consent Agreement, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order ("Consent Agreement") as a final disposition of this matter.

**RECITALS**

Respondent understands and agrees that:

1. Any record prepared in this matter, all investigative materials prepared or received by the Board concerning the allegations, and all related materials and exhibits may be retained in the Board's file pertaining to this matter.
2. Respondent has the right to a formal administrative hearing at which Respondent can present evidence and cross examine the State's witnesses. Respondent hereby irrevocably waives their right to such formal hearing concerning these allegations and irrevocably waives their right to any rehearing or judicial review relating to the allegations contained in this Consent Agreement.
3. Respondent has the right to consult with an attorney prior to entering into this Consent Agreement.

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 ...

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. LPC-17571 for the practice of  
4 counseling in Arizona.

5 2. On 11/12/17, Respondent was arrested and charged with Extreme DUI.

6 3. According to the police records:

7 a. The situation started as a hit and run collision at Filiberto's Restaurant.

8 b. A customer called in the incident when Respondent hit his truck and then the  
9 wall in the drive thru.

10 4. Respondent's blood alcohol content measured 0.218.

11 5. Respondent was found guilty of Extreme DUI and was court ordered to complete  
12 various stipulations, which she has successfully complied with.

13 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

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

17 2. The conduct and circumstances described in the Findings of Fact constitute a  
18 violation of A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(l), engaging in any conduct, practice or condition that impairs  
19 the ability of the licensee to safely and competently practice the licensee's profession.

20 **ORDER**

21 Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the parties agree to  
22 the provisions and penalties imposed as follows:

23 1. Respondent's license, LPC-17571 will be placed on probation for 12 months,  
24 effective from the date of entry as signed below.

25 ...

1           2.       Respondent shall not practice under their license, LPC-17571, unless they are  
2 fully compliant with all terms and conditions in this Consent Agreement. If, for any reason,  
3 Respondent is unable to comply with the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement, they  
4 shall immediately notify the Board in writing and shall not practice under their license until they  
5 submit a written request to the Board to re-commence compliance with this Consent Agreement.  
6 All such requests shall be pre-approved by the Board Chair or designee.

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

11                               **Continuing Education**

12           4.       In addition to the continuing education requirements of A.R.S. § 32-3273, within  
13 12 months of the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent shall take and pass a  
14 three semester credit hour graduate level course in substance use disorders from a regionally  
15 accredited college or university, pre-approved by the Board Chair or designee. Upon  
16 completion, Respondent shall submit to the Board an official transcript establishing completion  
17 of the required course.

18                               **Recovery Program**

19           5.       While on probation, Respondent shall attend a minimum of 6 Mothers Against  
20 Drunk Driving ("M.A.D.D.") meetings in person or an equivalent program within 12 months.  
21 Respondent shall provide a report to the Board Chair or designee substantiating their  
22 attendance at M.A.D.D. meetings or an equivalent program.

23                               **Early Release**

24           6.       After completion of the continuing education requirements set forth in this  
25 Consent Agreement, and upon the completion of all other stipulations set forth in this Consent

1 Agreement, Respondent may request early release.

2 **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

3 **Provision of Clinical Supervision**

4 7. Respondent shall not provide clinical supervision while subject to this Consent  
5 Agreement.

6 **Civil Penalty**

7 8. Subject to the provisions set forth in paragraph 9, the Board imposes a civil  
8 penalty against the Respondent in the amount of \$1,000.00.

9 9. Respondent's payment of the civil penalty shall be stayed so long as Respondent  
10 remains compliant with the terms of this Consent Agreement. If Board staff determines that  
11 Respondent is noncompliant with the terms of this Consent Agreement in any respect, with the  
12 exception of the tolling provision under paragraph 3, the stay of the civil penalty payment shall  
13 be automatically lifted and payment of the civil penalty shall be made by certified check or  
14 money order payable to the Board within 30 days after being notified in writing of the lifting of  
15 the stay.

16 10. Within 10 days of being notified of the lifting of the stay, Respondent may request  
17 that the matter be reviewed by the Board for the limited purpose of determining whether the  
18 automatic lifting of the stay was supported by clear and convincing evidence. If the Board  
19 receives the written request within 10 days or less of the next regularly scheduled Board  
20 meeting, the request will not be heard at that meeting, but will be heard at the next regularly  
21 scheduled Board meeting. The Board's decision on this matter shall not be subject to further  
22 review.

23 11. The Board reserves the right to take further disciplinary action against  
24 Respondent for noncompliance with this Consent Agreement after affording Respondent notice  
25 and an opportunity to be heard. If a complaint is filed against Respondent for failure to comply

1 with this Consent Agreement, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final  
2 and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.

3 12. If Respondent currently sees clients in their own private practice, and obtains any  
4 other type of behavioral health position, either as an employee or independent contractor, where  
5 they provide behavioral health services to clients of another individual or agency, they shall  
6 comply with requirements set forth in paragraphs 13 through 15 below.

7 13. Within 10 days of the effective date of this Order, if Respondent is working in a  
8 position where Respondent provides any type of behavioral health related services or works in a  
9 setting where any type of behavioral health, health care, or social services are provided,  
10 Respondent shall provide the Board Chair or designee with a signed statement from  
11 Respondent's employer(s) confirming Respondent provided the employer(s) with a copy of this  
12 Consent Agreement. If Respondent does not provide the employer's statement to the Board  
13 within 10 days of the effective date, the Board will provide Respondent's employer(s) with a  
14 copy of the Consent Agreement.

15 14. If Respondent is not employed as of the effective date of this Order, within 10  
16 days of accepting employment in a position where Respondent provides any type of behavioral  
17 health related services or in a setting where any type of behavioral health, health care, or social  
18 services are provided, Respondent shall provide the Board Chair or designee with a written  
19 statement providing the contact information of their new employer and a signed statement from  
20 Respondent's new employer confirming Respondent provided the employer with a copy of this  
21 Consent Agreement. If Respondent does not provide the employer's statement to the Board  
22 within 10 days, as required, Respondent's failure to provide the required statement to the Board  
23 shall be deemed a violation of A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(n) and the Board will provide Respondent's  
24 employer(s) with a copy of the Consent Agreement.

25 ...

1           15. If, during the period of Respondent's probation, Respondent changes  
2 employment, resigns, is involuntarily terminated, resigns in lieu of termination, or goes on  
3 extended leave of absence for whatever reason that may impact their ability to timely comply  
4 with the terms of probation, Respondent shall, within 10 days of the aforementioned acts, inform  
5 the Board of their change of employment status. After the change and within 10 days of  
6 accepting employment in a position where Respondent provides any type of behavioral health  
7 related services or in a setting where any type of behavioral health, health care, or social  
8 services are provided, Respondent shall provide the Board Chair or designee a written  
9 statement providing the contact information of their new employer(s) and a signed statement  
10 from Respondent's new employer(s) confirming Respondent provided the employer(s) with a  
11 copy of this Consent Agreement. If Respondent does not provide the employer's statement to  
12 the Board within 10 days, as required, Respondent's failure to provide the required statement to  
13 the Board shall be deemed a violation of A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(n) and the Board will provide  
14 Respondent's employer(s) with a copy of the Consent Agreement.

15           16. Respondent shall practice behavioral health using the name under which they  
16 are licensed. If Respondent changes their name, they shall advise the Board of the name  
17 change as prescribed under the Board's regulations and rules.

18           17. Prior to the release of Respondent from probation, Respondent must submit a  
19 written request to the Board for release from the terms of this Consent Agreement at least 30  
20 days prior to the date they would like to have this matter appear before the Board. Respondent  
21 may appear before the Board, either in person or telephonically. Respondent must provide  
22 evidence that they have successfully satisfied all terms and conditions in this Consent  
23 Agreement. The Board has the sole discretion to determine whether all terms and conditions of  
24 this Consent Agreement have been met and whether Respondent has adequately demonstrated  
25 that they have addressed the issues contained in this Consent Agreement. In the event that the



1 Board determines that any or all terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement have not been  
2 met, the Board may conduct such further proceedings as it determines are appropriate to  
3 address those matters.

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

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

8 20. This Consent Agreement shall be effective on the date of entry below.

9 21. This Consent Agreement is conclusive evidence of the matters described herein  
10 and may be considered by the Board in determining appropriate sanctions in the event a  
11 subsequent violation occurs.

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

13 Kara E. Thomas  
14 Kara E. Thomas

5/6/19  
Date

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

16 Dated this 01 day of May, 2019.

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18  
19 By:

Tobi Zavala  
TOBI ZAVALA, Executive Director  
Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners

20  
21  
22 ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed  
23 This 01 day of May, 2019 with:

24 Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners  
25 1740 West Adams Street, Suite 3600  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

1 **COPY** of the foregoing mailed via Interagency Mail  
This 07 day of May, 2019, to:

2  
3 Marc Harris  
4 Assistant Attorney General  
5 2005 North Central Avenue  
6 Phoenix, AZ 85004

7 **COPY** of the foregoing mailed via  
8 Certified mail no. 9489009000276046995719  
9 This 07 day of May, 2019, to:

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11 Kara E. Thomas  
12 Address of Record  
13 Respondent  
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