

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

**In the Matter of:**

**Heather L. Ostrowski, LMSW-17700,  
Licensed Master Social Worker,  
In the State of Arizona.**

**Respondent**

**CASE NO. 2021-0074**

**INTERIM CONSENT AGREEMENT**

By mutual agreement and understanding, between the Arizona State Board of Behavioral Health Examiners ("Board") and Heather L. Ostrowski ("Respondent"), the parties enter into this Interim Consent Agreement, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order ("Interim Consent Agreement") as an interim disposition of this matter.

**RECITALS**

Respondent understands and agrees that:

- 1. The Board may adopt this Interim Consent Agreement, or any part thereof, pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3251 *et seq.* and A.R.S. § 41-1092.07(F)(5).
- 2. Respondent has read and understands this Interim Consent Agreement as set forth herein, and has had the opportunity to discuss this Interim Consent Agreement with an attorney or has waived the opportunity to discuss this Interim Consent Agreement with an attorney. Respondent voluntarily enters into this Interim Consent Agreement and by doing so agrees to abide by all of its terms and conditions.
- 3. By entering into this Interim Consent Agreement, Respondent freely and voluntarily relinquishes all rights to an administrative hearing on the matters set forth herein, as well as all rights of rehearing, review, reconsideration, appeal, judicial review or any other administrative and/or judicial action, concerning the matters related to the Interim Consent Agreement.

1           4.       Respondent understands that this Interim Consent Agreement does not  
2 constitute a dismissal or resolution of this matter or any matters that may be currently pending  
3 before the Board and does not constitute any waiver, express or implied, of the Board's  
4 statutory authority or jurisdiction regarding any other pending or future investigations, actions,  
5 or proceedings. Respondent also understands that acceptance of this Interim Consent  
6 Agreement does not preclude any other agency, subdivision, or officer of this State from  
7 instituting civil or criminal proceedings with respect to the conduct that is the subject of this  
8 Interim Consent Agreement. Respondent does not intend their acceptance of this Interim  
9 Consent Agreement to constitute an admission of any fact or facts and they enter into this  
10 agreement as an interim compromise of a pending matter. Respondent further does not  
11 relinquish their rights to an administrative hearing, rehearing, review, reconsideration, judicial  
12 review or any other administrative and/or judicial action, concerning the matters related to a  
13 final disposition of this matter, unless they affirmatively does so as part of the final resolution of  
14 this matter.

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

20           6.       Respondent understands that this Interim Consent Agreement shall not become  
21 effective unless and until it is adopted by the Board and signed by its Executive Director.

22           7.       Respondent understands and agrees that if the Board does not adopt this  
23 Interim Consent Agreement, they will not assert in any future proceedings that the Board's  
24 consideration of this Interim Consent Agreement constitutes bias, prejudice, prejudgment, or  
25 other similar defense.

1           8.       Respondent acknowledges and agrees that the acceptance of this Consent  
2 Agreement is solely to settle this Board matter and does not preclude the Board from instituting  
3 other proceedings as may be appropriate now or in the future. Furthermore, and  
4 notwithstanding any language in this Consent Agreement, this Consent Agreement does not  
5 preclude in any way any other state agency or officer or political subdivision of this state from  
6 instituting proceedings, investigating claims, or taking legal action as may be appropriate now  
7 or in the future relating to this matter or other matters concerning Respondent, including but not  
8 limited to violations of Arizona's Consumer Fraud Act. Respondent acknowledges that, other  
9 than with respect to the Board, this Consent Agreement makes no representations, implied or  
10 otherwise, about the views or intended actions of any other state agency or officer or political  
11 subdivision of the state relating to this matter or other matters concerning Respondent.

12           9.       Respondent understands that this Interim Consent Agreement is a public record  
13 that may be publicly disseminated as a formal action of the Board, and that it shall be reported  
14 as required by law to the National Practitioner Data Bank.

15           10.      Respondent understands that this Interim Consent Agreement does not alleviate  
16 their responsibility to comply with the applicable license-renewal statutes and rules. If this  
17 Interim Consent Agreement remains in effect at the time Respondent's behavioral health  
18 licenses come up for renewal, they must renew their license(s) if Respondent wishes to retain  
19 their license(s). If Respondent elects not to renew their license(s) as prescribed by statute and  
20 rule, Respondent's license(s) will not expire but rather, by operation of law (A.R.S. § 32-3202),  
21 become suspended until the Board takes final action in this matter. Once the Board takes final  
22 action, in order for Respondent to be licensed in the future, they must submit a new application  
23 for licensure and meet all of the requirements set forth in the statutes and rules at that time.

24           11.      Respondent understands that any violation of this Interim Consent Agreement  
25 constitutes unprofessional conduct under A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(n), violating a formal order,

1 consent agreement, term of probation or stipulated agreement, and may result in disciplinary  
2 action under A.R.S. § 32-3281.

3 Respondent understands and agrees that:

4 **INTERIM FINDINGS OF FACT**

5 1. The Board is the duly constituted authority for licensing and regulating the  
6 practice of social work in the State of Arizona.

7 2. Respondent is the holder of License No. LMSW-17700.

8 3. Respondent agrees to voluntarily enter into this interim consent agreement while  
9 she tends to her substance abuse recovery efforts.

10 **INTERIM CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

11 1. The Board possesses subject matter and personal jurisdiction over Respondent  
12 pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3251 *et seq.*

13 2. The Board is authorized to enter into an interim consent agreement with a  
14 licensed master social worker to limit or restrict the professional's practice in order to protect the  
15 public and ensure that the professional is able to safely engage in the practice of social work  
16 pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3281.

17 **INTERIM ORDER**

18 Based on the Interim Findings of Fact and Interim Conclusions of Law, and pursuant to  
19 the authority granted to the Board under A.R.S. § 32-3281:

20 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Respondent shall not practice under their license until  
21 such time as they submit a written request for the reinstatement of their license to the Board and  
22 the Board affirmatively approves Respondent's request for reinstatement. The Board may, in its  
23 discretion, require any combination of staff-approved physical, psychiatric, or psychological  
24 examinations, or other types of examinations, evaluations or interviews it believes are  
25 necessary to assist the Board in determining whether Respondent is able to safely and

1 competently return to the practice of social work. The Board's affirmative approval to permit  
2 Respondent to return to practicing under their license shall not preclude the Board from taking  
3 any other action it deems appropriate based upon the conduct set forth in the Interim Findings  
4 of Fact.


5 Respondent's agreement not to practice under License No. LMSW-17700 will be  
6 considered an interim suspension of their license.

7  
8 **PROFESSIONAL ACCEPTS, SIGNS AND DATES THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT**

9   
10 Heather L. Ostrowski  
11 Heather L. Ostrowski

12 Oct 26, 2020  
13 Date

14  
15 **BOARD ACCEPTS, SIGNS AND DATES THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT**

16 By:   
17 Tobi Zavala  
18 TOBI ZAVALA, Executive Director  
19 Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners

20 Nov 16, 2020  
21 Date

22 **ORIGINAL** of the foregoing filed Nov 16, 2020  
23 with:

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

26 **EXECUTED COPY** of the foregoing sent electronically Nov 16, 2020  
27 to:

28 Mona Baskin  
29 Assistant Attorney General  
30 2005 North Central Avenue  
31 Phoenix, AZ 85004

32 Heather L. Ostrowski  
33 Address of Record  
34 Respondent