

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 and may be used for purposes of determining
7 sanctions in any future disciplinary matter.

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10 Consent Agreement, this Consent Agreement is withdrawn and shall be of no evidentiary value,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

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

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

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

24 The Board issues the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order:

25 ...

1 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

2 1. Respondent is the holder of License No. LAC-15916 for the practice of
3 counseling in Arizona.

4 2. On 10/24/17, the Board received a complaint alleging that Respondent has
5 engaged in a platonic relationship with a former client ("Former Client").

6 3. Respondent acknowledges formerly providing counseling services to Former
7 Client.

8 4. Respondent acknowledges engaging in a platonic relationship with Former Client
9 following his discharge from Respondent's treatment.

10 5. Respondent denies having a sexual or romantic relationship with Former Client.

11 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

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

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

18 3. The conduct and circumstances described in the Findings of Fact constitute a
19 violation of A.R.S. §32-3251(16)(k), any conduct or practice that is contrary to recognized
20 standards of ethics in the behavioral health profession or that constitutes a danger to the health,
21 welfare or safety of a client, as it relates to the following section of the 2014 ACA Code of
22 Ethics:

23 **A.6.e. Nonprofessional Interactions or Relationships (Other Than Sexual or**
24 **Romantic Interactions or Relationships)**

25 ...

1 Counselors avoid entering into nonprofessional relationships with former clients,
2 their romantic partners, or their family members when the interaction is
3 potentially harmful to the client. This applies to both in-person and electronic
4 interactions or relationships.

5 **ORDER**

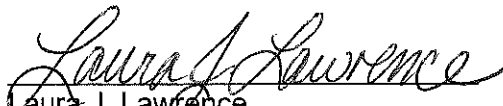
6 Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law, the parties agree to
7 the provision and penalties imposed as follows:

8 1. Respondent's license, LAC-15916, shall be surrendered to the Board, effective
9 from the date of entry as signed below.

10 2. The surrender shall be considered a revocation of Respondent's license.

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


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

16 
17 Laura J. Lawrence


Date

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

19 Dated this 28th day of January, 2017/18

20
21 By: 
22 TOBI ZAVALA, Executive Director
23 Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners
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ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed
This 22nd day of January, 201~~7~~⁸ with:

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

COPY of the foregoing mailed via Interagency Mail
This 22nd day of January, 201~~7~~⁸, to:

Marc Harris
Assistant Attorney General
1275 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

COPY of the foregoing mailed via
Certified mail no. 948900900027603963897
This 22nd day of January, 201~~7~~⁸ to:

Laura J. Lawrence
Address of Record
Respondent