

**Louisiana Licensed Professional
Counselors Board of Examiners**

IN THE MATTER OF

COMPLAINT NUMBER: LPC 14/15-69

MELISSA SANDERLIN, LPC-S

LICENSE LPC NO: 3965

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

WHEREAS, Melissa Sanderlin (“Ms. Sanderlin”) is a Licensed Professional Counselor (“LPC”) LPC Board-Approved Supervisor, and is subject to the jurisdiction and rules and regulations of the Louisiana Mental Health Counselor Licensing Act (La. R.S. 37:1101, et seq.), the Code of Conduct for Licensed Professional Counselors (LAC 46:LX § 2101, et seq.), and the rules regarding disciplinary proceedings (LAC 46:LX § 1301-1325, et seq.); and

WHEREAS, on or about March 9, 2015, the Louisiana Licensed Professional Counselors Board of Examiners (“LPCBE”) received a Complaint regarding Ms. Sanderlin from Kinglsey Hancock McCrocklin, concerning the therapeutic and personal relationship between Ms. Sanderlin and her former client, Kingsley Hancock McCrocklin, as well as her therapeutic and personal relationship with another client. The Complaint also provided information regarding the failure of Ms. Sanderlin to keep client information confidential and threats she made to Mr. McCrocklin once she learned of his intent to file the Complaint with the LPCBE.

WHEREAS, by letter dated August 31, 2015, the LPCBE notified Ms. Sanderlin of the Complaint, provided Ms. Sanderlin with a summary of the nature of the complaint, and requested that Ms. Sanderlin, within thirty (30) days, provide a statement giving her review of the circumstances, which are the subject of the complaint.

WHEREAS, by letter dated October 1, 2015, and supplemental letter dated October 14, 2015, Ms. Sanderlin, through counsel, submitted a response to the Complaint, wherein she verified only the existence of an inappropriate relationship with a former client, but denied that the relationship caused any harm to the client.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Complaint and administrative investigation, the respondent, Melissa Sanderlin, has indicated her desire to resolve this matter through a Consent Agreement and Order provided for in LAC 46:LX § 1311, LAC 46:LX § 3907, and La. R.S. 49:955(D) of the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act; and

WHEREAS, the Respondent, Melissa Sanderlin, LPC-S, has admitted the following:

1. Respondent, Melissa Sanderlin, was, at all times pertinent to the facts and matters alleged herein, a Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor licensed by the LPCBE to engage in the practice of mental health counseling in the State of Louisiana, as evidenced by LPC License Number 3965.
2. At all times pertinent to the facts of this case, Ms. Sanderlin was actively engaged in the practice of professional counseling at Sanderlin Counseling Services in Monroe, Louisiana.
3. Ms. Sanderlin engaged in an inappropriate personal and sexual relationship with two clients, which caused the clients undue harm.
4. Melissa Sanderlin engaged in unprofessional and unethical conduct when she threatened the complainant after learning of his intent to file a Complaint with the LPCBE.
5. Ms. Sanderlin admits that her actions were in violation of La. R.S. 37:1110 (A)(3)(9); LAC 46:LX §1301(A), §2103(A)(1)(a)(4)(a)(5)(a), §2107(A)(1)(a)(2)(d)(6)(d), and §2117(A)(1)(a).

WHEREAS, the LPCBE has alleged that Ms. Sanderlin failed to keep client information confidential when she maintained therapy and financial records on a home computer accessible by others;

WHEREAS, Melissa Sanderlin has indicated her desire to resolve this matter through a Consent Agreement and Order;

WHEREAS, the undersigned Prosecutor for the LPCBE has communicated with counsel for Melissa Sanderlin, who has indicated her desire to resolve this matter through a Consent Agreement and Order;

WHEREAS, the Respondent, Melissa Sanderlin, agrees not to repeat the misconduct mentioned in this Consent Agreement and Order, and acknowledges that any further misconduct mentioned in this Consent Agreement and Order will be considered a violation of the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order and shall be cause for further disciplinary action. Melissa Sanderlin further recognizes that any violation or failure of strict compliance with any of the terms and conditions set forth in this Consent Agreement and Order by Ms. Sanderlin shall be deemed adequate and sufficient cause, upon proof of such violation or failure, for the LPCBE to take further disciplinary action as the LPCBE may deem appropriate against the license of Ms. Sanderlin to practice professional counseling in the State of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Respondent, Melissa Sanderlin, recognizes her right to have an Administrative Adjudication of the charges outlined in the complaint and notice letter, at which time Ms. Sanderlin would be entitled to be represented by legal counsel, to call the witnesses, and to present witnesses on her behalf in defense or in mitigation of the charges made, and to a decision thereon by the LPCBE based upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law in accordance with the Louisiana Administrative Procedures Act, Ms. Sanderlin nonetheless hereby waives her right to formal adjudication and, pursuant to La. R.S. 49:955(D), and consents to the entry of the Consent Agreement and Order set forth hereinafter. Ms. Sanderlin also acknowledges that she hereby waives any rights to which she may be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, La. R.S. 49:951, et seq., or which she otherwise may be

afforded by any law to contest her agreement to, or the force and fact of the LPCBE's investigation or this Consent Agreement and Order in any Court or other forum.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that in consideration of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority vested in the LPCBE by La. R.S. 49:955(D), the LPCBE orders and Ms. Sanderlin accepts the following administrative action, which is a final decision pursuant to La. R.S. 49:958:

1. The LPC-S license of Melissa Sanderlin to be engaged in the practice of Mental Health Counseling in the State of Louisiana, as evidenced by LPC-S License Number 3965, shall be and is hereby REVOKED, said revocation being effective the date this Consent Agreement and Order is approved and signed by the LPCBE. In accordance with LAC 46:LX §1321, Ms. Sanderlin may apply for reinstatement after a period of not less than two years from the date that this Consent Agreement and Order is approved and signed by the LPCBE.
2. Ms. Sanderlin shall pay legal costs associated with the Complaint in the amount of \$1,200.00 within two (2) years from the date that all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order, which payment shall be made by certified check or money order. The payment(s) shall be made on a quarterly basis in accordance with due dates established by the LPCBE, and with the first payment due within thirty (30) days from the date that all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order. There shall be no pre-payment penalty.
3. Ms. Sanderlin shall pay a fine as authorized by La. R.S.: 37:1106(D) for the above referenced violations in the amount of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$5,000.00) within two (2) years from the date that all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order, which payment shall be made by certified check or money order. The payment(s) shall be made on a quarterly basis in accordance with due dates established by the LPCBE, and with the first payment due within thirty (30) days from the date that all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order. There shall be no pre-payment penalty.
4. Ms. Sanderlin specifically acknowledges that failure to comply with the terms of the Consent Agreement and Order may result in further disciplinary action taken by the LPCBE. The admissions contained herein will be considered proven and the only issue will be failure to follow the terms of the Consent Agreement and Order.
5. By agreeing to the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order, Ms. Sanderlin waives all rights to appeal this adjudication.

THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the LPCBE and are a matter of public record. The terms of this Consent Agreement

and Order may be published and reported in, including but not limited to, the LPC Board Newsletter and website, the National Board for Certified Counselors, and the National Practitioners Data Bank (NPDB).

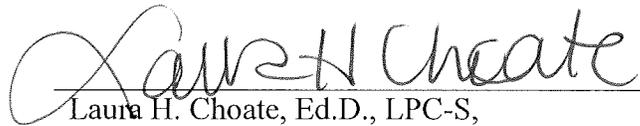
THE ADMISSIONS AND FINDINGS CONTAINED HEREIN are intended solely for the purpose of resolving the case at hand or in connection with other matters before the LPCBE involving Respondent.

ORDER

The Louisiana Licensed Professional Counselors Board of Examiners, having examined the Consent Agreement and Order, Complaint Number 14/15-69, adopt the Consent Agreement and Order in the matter on April 22, 2016.

DATED this 22 day of April, 2016, at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

**LOUISIANA LICENSED PROFESSIONAL
COUNSELORS BOARD OF EXAMINERS**

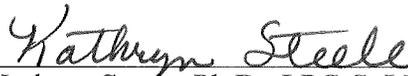


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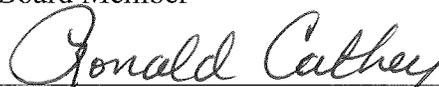


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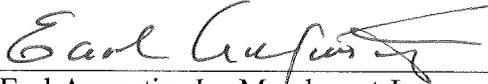


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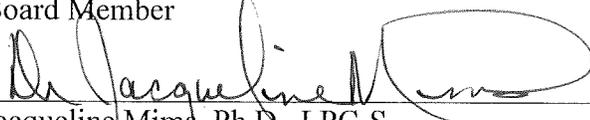
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Board Member



Earl Augustin, Jr., Member-at-Large,
Board Member



Jacqueline Mims, Ph.D., LPC-S,
Board Member

I, James R. Raines, serving as Prosecutor, do hereby acknowledge negotiation and preparation of this Consent Agreement and Order in order to resolve, with prejudice, all matters for which Melissa Sanderlin, LPC-S, could be charged under Complaint Number 14/15-69; and further certify that this Consent Agreement and Order is consistent with the evidence, adequately addresses the complaint and represents a true and correct statement of that which could be proven at a hearing of this matter.



James R. Raines

4/22/16

Date

I, Melissa Sanderlin, LPC-S, make these acknowledgements and waivers in support of a final disposition of the pending investigation of Complaint Number 14/15-69 by Consent Agreement and Order ("Order") pursuant to La. R.S. 49:955(D), in lieu of the institution and prosecution of formal administrative proceedings, and accordingly consent to the entirety of the Order set forth hereinbefore and further waive any right to which I may be entitled under the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act or any other law to contest, in any court, my agreement to this Order. By my subscription hereto, I also hereby authorize Prosecutor to present this Order to the LPCBE for its consideration and to disclose to and discuss with the LPCBE the nature and results of the investigation of this matter. I herein waive any objection to such disclosure based on due process of law under either the State or Federal Constitution or under State statutory law, including La. R.S. 49:960. I expressly acknowledge that the disclosure of such information to the LPCBE shall be without prejudice to the Prosecutor's authority to file a formal Administrative Complaint, or the LPCBE's capacity to adjudicate such Administrative Complaint, should the LPCBE decline to approve this Consent Agreement and Order. I further acknowledge my awareness that should the LPCBE approve this Consent Agreement and Order, that the Consent Agreement and Order will become a matter of public record.

Melissa Sanderlin
MELISSA SANDERLIN

3/16/16
Date

I, Melissa Sanderlin, have read the Consent Agreement and Order, understand it, and agree to be bound by its terms and conditions.

DATED: 3/16/16 Melissa Sanderlin
MELISSA SANDERLIN

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 16th day of March, 2016, at Monroe
Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Karen Renee Patterson
Notary Public

Print Name: _____
My Commission Expires: _____

