1	BEFORE THE ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EXAMINERS	
2	In the Matter of:	
3 4	Kristin D. Jimenez, LMFT-15620, Licensed Marriage Family Therapist, In the State of Arizona.	CASE NO. 2021-0001 2021-0007 2021-0009
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	RESPONDENT	RELEASE FROM CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER
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7	The Board received a request from Respondent to release them from the terms and conditions of the Consent Agreement and Order dated May 18th, 2021. After consideration, the	
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9	Board voted to release Respondent from the terms and conditions of the Consent Agreement	
10	and Order dated May 18 th , 2021.	
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 18 th , 2021.	
15	By: Mili Zanola	Jul 12, 2022
16 17	TOBI ZAVALA, Executive Director Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Exar	Date miners
18	ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed with: Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners 1740 West Adams Street, Suite 3600 Phoenix, AZ 85007 EXECUTED COPY of the foregoing sent electronically to: Jul 12, 2022 Jul 12, 2022	
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23	Kristin D. Jimenez Address of Record Respondent	
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BEFORE THE ARIZONA BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EXAMINERS

In the Matter of:

Kristin D. Jimenez, LAMFT-10543 Licensed Associate Marriage and Family Therapist, In the State of Arizona.

CASE NO. 2021-0001 2021-0007 2021-0009

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), Kristin D. Jimenez ("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:

- 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.
- 4. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that upon signing this Consent Agreement and returning it to the Board's Executive Director, Respondent may not revoke their acceptance of this Consent Agreement or make any modifications to it. Any modification of this original document is ineffective and void unless mutually approved by the parties in writing.
- 5. Respondent voluntarily enters into this consent agreement for the purpose of avoiding the expense, uncertainty, and prolonged time involved in further administrative proceedings. The Issuers contained herein are resolved by settlement and not actually litigated. Any allegations and findings herein many not be used for res judicata or collateral estoppel effect in any subsequent civil proceedings for any claims of professional liability or negligence by or on behalf of Complainant, Complainant's family, or representative.
- 6. This Consent Agreement is subject to the Board's approval, and will be effective only when the Board accepts it. In the event the Board in its discretion does not approve this Consent Agreement, this Consent Agreement is withdrawn and shall be of no evidentiary value, nor shall it be relied upon or introduced in any disciplinary action by any party hereto, except that Respondent agrees that should the Board reject this Consent Agreement and this case proceeds to hearing, Respondent shall assert no claim that the Board was prejudiced by its review and discussion of this document or of any records relating thereto.
- 7. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that the acceptance of this Consent Agreement is solely to settle this Board matter and does not preclude the Board from instituting other proceedings as may be appropriate now or in the future. Furthermore, and notwithstanding any language in this Consent Agreement, this Consent Agreement does not preclude in any way any other state agency or officer or political subdivision of this state from

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instituting proceedings, investigating claims, or taking legal action as may be appropriate now or in the future relating to this matter or other matters concerning Respondent, including but not limited to violations of Arizona's Consumer Fraud Act. Respondent acknowledges that, other than with respect to the Board, this Consent Agreement makes no representations, implied or otherwise, about the views or intended actions of any other state agency or officer or political subdivision of the state relating to this matter or other matters concerning Respondent.

- 8. Respondent understands that once the Board approves and signs this Consent Agreement, it is a public record that may be publicly disseminated as a formal action of the Board, and that it shall be reported as required by law to the National Practitioner Data Bank.
- 9. Respondent further understands that any violation of this Consent Agreement constitutes unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(n) and may result in disciplinary action pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3281.
- 10. The Board therefore retains jurisdiction over Respondent and may initiate disciplinary action against Respondent if it determines that they have failed to comply with the terms of this Consent Agreement or of the practice act.

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Respondent is the holder of License No. LAMFT-10543 for the practice of marriage and family therapy in Arizona.
- 2. From 10/19 - 06/20, Respondent provided behavioral health services to adult female ("Client") in group and individual sessions at a behavioral health agency ("Agency").
 - 3. Respondent was aware of Client's vulnerabilities, such as:
 - a. Client attempted suicide two days after her release from Agency's PHP in 12/19 by intentionally overdosing on heroine.
 - b. Boundary setting issues

- Extreme and long-term substance addiction g. Licensee represented to Board Staff that when Client arrived for residential treatment admission, Client expressed suicidal ideations "every second." Although she was aware of these vulnerabilities, Respondent gave Client her non-Agency work number, purportedly to provide support. Between 03/20 – 07/20, Respondent's cell phone records include the following: a. Fifty-nine (59) outbound calls from Respondent to Client. b. Twenty-nine (29) inbound calls from Client to Respondent. c. Fifty (50) text messages exchanged between Respondent and Client. Respondent acknowledges the text messages from Client became personal Respondent had lunch with Client on two occasions (03/20 and 04/20) outside of Respondent represents these lunches were to "provide support." Upon discovering Respondent's interactions with Client, Agency initiated an In 06/20, Respondent resigned from Agency prior to the investigation being Respondent represents she resigned from Agency due to a hostile work
- environment and lack of support from her supervisor following threats from a former client.
- 12. Although she was no longer working at Agency or treating Client, Respondent represents the following occurred over the Fourth of July weekend.

- a. She had a growing concern that Client might commit suicide or harm herself,
 but Respondent did not feel Client was in imminent danger.
- b. Respondent was "freaking out" because she did not want Client to hurt herself but she did not know who to call.
- c. Respondent was alarmed by a 07/07/20 text from Client because during Client's previous suicide attempt, she wrote goodbye texts to everybody and Respondent worried this text might indicate Client intended to commit suicide.
- d. Respondent told a former coworker at Agency ("Complainant 2") that Client had the potential to be suicidal.
- 13. Based on Client's 07/02/20 progress note and representations from another former coworker at Agency ("Complainant 3"), Client disclosed the following during a session with Complainant 3:
 - a. Client felt guilty about telling Complainant 3 about her relationship with Respondent.
 - b. This guilt caused Client to have suicidal ideations and Client told Respondent about these suicidal ideations.
 - c. Respondent asserts Client did not explicitly say she was "suicidal" and instead told Respondent, "I'm not doing good with all of this."
 - d. According to Client, Respondent did not react or respond.
 - e. Respondent represents that she responded to Client with empathy and confirmed client had support from Agency and her sponsor.
 - f. Client contacted her drug dealer in an attempt to get drugs to overdose.
 - g. Client's drug dealer did not respond so Client was not able to commit suicide.

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- 14. Respondent represents that she takes accountability for her mistakes with Client and crossed a boundary by providing her with a non-agency work number and having lunch with client on two occasions.
 - a. Respondent attributes her mistakes with Client to inadequate training and supervision by Agency due to a compromised relationship with her supervisor.
 - b. Since the Board Complaint, Respondent has taken two courses on ethics and boundary issues to reeducate herself on pitfalls and her own risk tolerance.
- 15. While Respondent represents that her mistakes with Client were the product of inadequate training and supervision, respondent received the following training and supervision at Agency:
 - a. During a 04/17/20 supervision session, Respondent's former supervisor at Agency ("Complainant 1") gave examples of establishing clear boundaries with clients who attempt to blur lines of hierarchy and create unhealthy balance in therapeutic relationships.
 - b. During a 05/22/20 supervision session, Complainant 1 focused on managing bias and countertransference with clients who have returned to treatment.
 - c. In 5/20, Licensee attended group supervision at Agency which discussed ethical violations in a mock Board hearing that specifically involved a dual relationship scenario.
 - d. Because the mock dual relationship training involved sex, Respondent did not view her relationship with Client as a dual relationship because she was not having sex with Client.
 - e. Respondent represents that she felt she needed to show Client support as Client often reported she did not feel supported by her other providers.

- f. Respondent acknowledges that she should have identified other resources for Client.
- 16. Additionally, on 12/27/19, Licensee signed Agency's Code of Ethics Policy which included the following, in part:
 - a. Professional employees will not engage in personal relationships with clients of Agency.
 - b. If a past/current client attempts to contact any Agency employee, the employee is required to refer client to the main office line.
 - c. Under no circumstances is an employee ever to meet a client, former client,
 or client family member outside of Agency property.
 - d. No employee may ever give their personal cell phone, home phone number, or any other means of contacting them outside of Agency.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- The Board has jurisdiction over Respondent pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3251 et seq.
 and the rules promulgated by the Board relating to Respondent's professional practice as a
 licensed behavioral health professional.
- 2. The conduct and circumstances described in the Findings of Fact constitute a violation of A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(I) engaging in any conduct, practice or condition that impairs the ability of the licensee to safely and competently practice the licensee's profession.
- 3. The conduct and circumstances described in the Findings of Fact constitute a violation of A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(y), Engaging in a dual relationship with a client that could impair the licensee's objectivity or professional judgment or create a risk of harm to the client. For the purposes of this subdivision, "dual relationship" means a licensee simultaneously engages in both a professional and nonprofessional relationship with a client that is avoidable and not incidental.

<u>ORDER</u>

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

- Respondent's license, LAMFT-10543, will be placed on probation for 24 months, effective from the date of entry as signed below.
- 2. Respondent shall not practice under their license, LAMFT-10543, unless they are fully compliant with all terms and conditions in this Consent Agreement. If, for any reason, Respondent is unable to comply with the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement, they shall immediately notify the Board in writing and shall not practice under their license until they submit a written request to the Board to re-commence compliance with this Consent Agreement. All such requests shall be pre-approved by the Board Chair or designee.
- 3. In the event that Respondent is unable to comply with the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement, all remaining time frames shall be tolled and remain tolled until such time as they are granted approval to re-commence compliance with the Consent Agreement.

Continuing Education

- 4. In addition to the continuing education requirements of A.R.S. § 32-3273, within 12 months of the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent shall complete 6 clock hours of continuing education addressing dual relationships. All required continuing education shall be pre-approved by the Board Chair or designee. Upon completion, Respondent shall submit a certificate of completion of the required continuing education.
- 5. In addition to the continuing education requirements of A.R.S. § 32-3273, within 12 months of the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent shall complete 6 clock hours of the NASW Staying Out of Trouble continuing education course or an equivalent course addressing current behavioral health documentation standards in Arizona. All required

continuing education shall be pre-approved by the Board Chair or designee. Upon completion, Respondent shall submit a certificate of completion of the required continuing education.

- 6. In addition to the continuing education requirements of A.R.S. § 32-3273, within 12 months of the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent shall take and pass a three-semester credit hour graduate level behavioral health ethics course from a regionally accredited college or university, pre-approved by the Board Chair or designee. Upon completion, Respondent shall submit to the Board an official transcript establishing completion of the required course.
- Respondent may submit continuing education completed since the complaint was filed for consideration of approval by the Board Chair or designee.

Clinical Supervision

8. While on probation, Respondent shall submit to clinical supervision for 24 months by a masters or higher level behavioral health professional licensed by the Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners at the independent level. Within 30 days of the date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent shall submit the name of a clinical supervisor for pre-approval by the Board Chair or designee. Also within 30 days of the date of this Consent Agreement, the clinical supervisor shall submit a letter disclosing their prior relationship to Respondent. In that letter, the clinical supervisor must address why they should be approved, acknowledge that they have reviewed the Consent Agreement and include the results of an initial assessment and a supervision plan regarding the proposed supervision of Respondent. The letter from the supervisor shall be submitted to the Board.

Focus and Frequency of Clinical Supervision

9. The focus of the supervision shall relate to current behavioral health documentation standards in Arizona, countertransference, conflict resolution, and legal

requirements affecting the practice of behavioral health in Arizona. Respondent shall meet individually in person with the supervisor for a minimum of one hour weekly if working fulltime.

Reports

- 10. Once approved, the supervisor shall submit quarterly reports for review and approval by the Board Chair or designee. The quarterly reports shall include issues presented in this Consent Agreement that need to be reported and the supervisor shall notify the Board if more frequent supervision is needed. Quarterly reports shall include the following:
 - a. Dates of each clinical supervision session.
 - b. A comprehensive description of issues discussed during supervision sessions.
- 11. All quarterly supervision reports shall include a copy of clinical supervision documentation maintained for that quarter. All clinical supervision documentation maintained by the supervisor shall comply with requirements set forth in A.A.C. R4-6-212(C).
- 12. After Respondent's probationary period, the supervisor shall submit a final summary report for review and approval by the Board Chair or designee. The final report shall also contain a recommendation as to whether the Respondent should be released from this Consent Agreement.

Change of Clinical Supervisor During Probation

13. If, during the period of Respondent's probation, the clinical supervisor determines that they cannot continue as the clinical supervisor, they shall notify the Board within 10 days of the end of supervision and provide the Board with an interim final report. Respondent shall advise the Board Chair or designee within 30 days of cessation of clinical supervision by the approved clinical supervisor and provide the name of a new proposed clinical supervisor. The proposed clinical supervisor shall provide the same documentation to the Board as was required of the initial clinical supervisor.

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Therapy

- 14. During the period of probation, Respondent shall attend therapy for 24 months with a masters or higher level behavioral health professional licensed at the independent level. Within 30 days of the date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent shall submit the name of their therapist and the therapist's curriculum vitae for pre-approval by the Board Chair or designee. Also within 30 days of the date of this Consent Agreement, the therapist shall submit a letter addressing why they should be approved, acknowledging that they have reviewed the Consent Agreement and include the results of an initial assessment and a treatment plan regarding the proposed treatment of Respondent.
- 15. Upon approval, the Board will provide the therapist with copies of any required evaluations completed at the request of the Board prior to this Consent Agreement and the Board's investigative report.

Focus and Frequency of Therapy

16. The focus of the therapy shall relate to transference issues and conflict resolution. Respondent shall meet in person with the therapist twice monthly.

Reports

17. Once approved, the therapist shall submit quarterly reports and a final summary report to the Board for review and approval. The quarterly reports shall include issues presented in this Consent Agreement that need to be reported and the therapist shall notify the Board if more frequent therapy is needed. The reports shall address Respondent's current mental health status, medications prescribed, if any, treatment recommendation, and shall report if, in their professional opinion, Respondent becomes unable to practice psychotherapy safely and competently. The final report shall also contain a recommendation as to whether the Respondent should be released from this Consent Agreement.

Change of Therapist

18. In the event that, during the period of Respondent's probation, Respondent's Board-approved therapist discontinues treatment, Respondent shall submit the name of a new therapist and the therapist's curriculum vitae for pre-approval by the Board Chair or designee within 30 days of the discontinued treatment. Also within 30 days of the date of the discontinued treatment, the proposed therapist shall submit a letter addressing why they should be approved, acknowledging that they have reviewed the Consent Agreement, and include the results of an initial assessment and a treatment plan regarding the proposed treatment of Respondent.

Early Release

19. After 12 months and upon the supervisor's and therapist's recommendations, Respondent may request early release from the Consent Agreement if all other terms of the Consent Agreement have been met.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Provision of Clinical Supervision

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

Civil Penalty

- 21. Subject to the provisions set forth in paragraph 20, the Board imposes a civil penalty against the Respondent in the amount of \$1,000.00.
- 22. Respondent's payment of the civil penalty shall be stayed so long as Respondent remains compliant with the terms of this Consent Agreement. If Board staff determines that Respondent is noncompliant with the terms of this Consent Agreement in any respect, with the exception of the tolling provision under paragraph 3, the stay of the civil penalty payment shall be automatically lifted and payment of the civil penalty shall be made by certified check or

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money order payable to the Board within 30 days after being notified in writing of the lifting of the stay.

- 23. Within 10 days of being notified of the lifting of the stay, Respondent may request that the matter be reviewed by the Board for the limited purpose of determining whether the automatic lifting of the stay was supported by clear and convincing evidence. If the Board receives the written request within 10 days or less of the next regularly scheduled Board meeting, the request will not be heard at that meeting, but will be heard at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. The Board's decision on this matter shall not be subject to further review.
- 24. The Board reserves the right to take further disciplinary action against Respondent for noncompliance with this Consent Agreement after affording Respondent notice and an opportunity to be heard. If a complaint is filed against Respondent for failure to comply with this Consent Agreement, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.
- 25. If Respondent currently sees clients in their own private practice, and obtains any other type of behavioral health position, either as an employee or independent contractor, where they provide behavioral health services to clients of another individual or agency, they shall comply with requirements set forth in paragraphs 26 through 28 below.
- 26. Within 10 days of the effective date of this Order, if Respondent is working in a position where Respondent provides any type of behavioral health related services or works in a setting where any type of behavioral health, health care, or social services are provided, Respondent shall provide the Board Chair or designee with a signed statement from Respondent's employer(s) confirming Respondent provided the employer(s) with a copy of this Consent Agreement. If Respondent does not provide the employer's statement to the Board

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

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

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

- 29. Respondent shall practice behavioral health using the name under which they are licensed. If Respondent changes their name, they shall advise the Board of the name change as prescribed under the Board's regulations and rules.
- 30. Prior to the release of Respondent from probation, Respondent must submit a written request to the Board for release from the terms of this Consent Agreement at least 30 days prior to the date they would like to have this matter appear before the Board. Respondent may appear before the Board, either in person or telephonically. Respondent must provide evidence that they have successfully satisfied all terms and conditions in this Consent Agreement. The Board has the sole discretion to determine whether all terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement have been met and whether Respondent has adequately demonstrated that they have addressed the issues contained in this Consent Agreement. In the event that the Board determines that any or all terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement have not been met, the Board may conduct such further proceedings as it determines are appropriate to address those matters.
- 31. Respondent shall bear all costs relating to probation terms required in this Consent Agreement.
- 32. Respondent shall be responsible for ensuring that all documentation required in this Consent Agreement is provided to the Board in a timely manner.
 - 33. This Consent Agreement shall be effective on the date of entry below.
- 34. This Consent Agreement is conclusive evidence of the matters described herein and may be considered by the Board in determining appropriate sanctions in the event a subsequent violation occurs.

1	PROFESSIONAL ACCEPTS, SIGNS AND DATES THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT	
2	Kristin Jimenez, LAMFT Kristin Jimenez, LAMFT (Apr 22, 2021 12:19 PDT) Apr 22, 2021	
3	Kristin D. Jimenez Date	
4	BOARD ACCEPTS, SIGNS AND DATES THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT	
5	By: May 18, 2021	
6 7	TOBI ZAVALA, Executive Director Date Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners	
8	ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed May 18, 2021	
9	with:	
10 11	Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners 1740 West Adams Street, Suite 3600 Phoenix, AZ 85007	
12	EXECUTED COPY of the foregoing sent electronically May 18, 2021 to:	
14 15	Mona Baskin Assistant Attorney General 2005 North Central Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85004	
16 17	Kristin D. Jimenez Address of Record Respondent	
18	Charles S. Hover, III	
19	Renaud Cook Drury Mesaros, PA 1 N. Central, Suite 900	
20 21	Phoenix, AZ 85004 Attorney for Respondent	
22		
23		