

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

3 **In the Matter of:**

4 **Barbara K. Williams, LMSW-20195,**  
5 **Licensed Master Social Worker,**  
6 **In the State of Arizona.**

7 **Respondent**

**CASE NO. 2023-0155**  
**INTERIM CONSENT AGREEMENT**

8 By mutual agreement and understanding, between the Arizona State Board of  
9 Behavioral Health Examiners (“Board”) and Barbara K. Williams (“Respondent”), the parties  
10 enter into this Interim Consent Agreement, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order  
11 (“Interim Consent Agreement”) as an interim disposition of this matter.

12 **RECITALS**

13 Respondent understands and agrees that:

14 1. The Board may adopt this Interim Consent Agreement, or any part thereof,  
15 pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3251 *et seq.* and A.R.S. § 41-1092.07(F)(5).

16 2. Respondent has read and understands this Interim Consent Agreement as set  
17 forth herein, and has had the opportunity to discuss this Interim Consent Agreement with an  
18 attorney or has waived the opportunity to discuss this Interim Consent Agreement with an  
19 attorney. Respondent voluntarily enters into this Interim Consent Agreement and by doing so  
20 agrees to abide by all of its terms and conditions.

21 3. By entering into this Interim Consent Agreement, Respondent freely and  
22 voluntarily relinquishes all rights to an administrative hearing on the matters set forth herein, as  
23 well as all rights of rehearing, review, reconsideration, appeal, judicial review or any other  
24 administrative and/or judicial action, concerning the matters related to the Interim Consent  
25 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.

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1 11. Respondent understands that any violation of this Interim Consent Agreement  
2 constitutes unprofessional conduct under A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(n), violating a formal order,  
3 consent agreement, term of probation or stipulated agreement, and may result in disciplinary  
4 action under A.R.S. § 32-3281.

5 Respondent understands and agrees that:

6 **INTERIM FINDINGS OF FACT**

7 1. The Board is the duly constituted authority for licensing and regulating the  
8 practice of Social Work in the State of Arizona.

9 2. Respondent is the holder of License No. LMSW-20195.

10 3. Respondent agrees to voluntarily enter into this interim consent agreement while  
11 she tends to her behavioral health recovery efforts.

12 **INTERIM CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

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

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

19 **INTERIM ORDER**

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

22 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Respondent shall not practice under their license until  
23 such time as they submit a written request for the reinstatement of their license to the Board and  
24 the Board affirmatively approves Respondent's request for reinstatement. The Board may, in its

25 ...


1 discretion, require any combination of staff-approved physical, psychiatric, or psychological  
2 examinations, or other types of examinations, evaluations or interviews it believes are  
3 necessary to assist the Board in determining whether Respondent is able to safely and  
4 competently return to the practice of Social Work. The Board's affirmative approval to permit  
5 Respondent to return to practicing under their license shall not preclude the Board from taking  
6 any other action it deems appropriate based upon the conduct set forth in the Interim Findings  
7 of Fact.

8 Respondent's agreement not to practice under License No. LMSW-20195 will be  
9 considered an interim suspension of their license.

10  
11 **PROFESSIONAL ACCEPTS, SIGNS AND DATES THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT**

12   
Barbara Williams (Mar 20, 2023 10:39 MDT)  
13 Barbara K. Williams Mar 20, 2023  
Date

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

15 By:   
16 TOBI ZAVALA, Executive Director Mar 20, 2023  
Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners Date

17  
18 **ORIGINAL** of the foregoing filed Mar 20, 2023  
19 with:

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

22 **EXECUTED COPY** of the foregoing sent electronically Mar 20, 2023  
to:

23 Mona Baskin  
24 Assistant Attorney General  
25 2005 North Central Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85004

1 Barbara K. Williams  
2 Address of Record  
3 Respondent

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