

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 between only Respondent and the Board for
7 the final disposition of this matter and may be used for purposes of determining sanctions in any
8 future disciplinary matter.

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11 Consent Agreement, this Consent Agreement is withdrawn and shall be of no evidentiary value,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

16 7. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that the acceptance of this Consent
17 Agreement is solely to settle this Board matter and does not preclude the Board from instituting
18 other proceedings as may be appropriate now or in the future. Furthermore, and
19 notwithstanding any language in this Consent Agreement, this Consent Agreement does not
20 preclude in any way any other state agency or officer or political subdivision of this state from
21 instituting proceedings, investigating claims, or taking legal action as may be appropriate now or
22 in the future relating to this matter or other matters concerning Respondent, including but not
23 limited to violations of Arizona's Consumer Fraud Act. Respondent acknowledges that, other
24 than with respect to the Board, this Consent Agreement makes no representations, implied or

25 ...

1 otherwise, about the views or intended actions of any other state agency or officer or political
2 subdivision of the state relating to this matter or other matters concerning Respondent.

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

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

7 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

8 1. Respondent is the holder of License No. LMSW-15632 for the practice of social
9 work in the State of Arizona.

10 2. On 09/12/23, the Board received a complaint alleging that Respondent was a
11 hospice worker taking fentanyl patches from Patient 1.

12 3. The complaint alleged that Respondent admitted to applying fentanyl patches to
13 Patient 1 and the patches were allegedly moved on Patient 1 to a different site using band aides
14 to get the patches to stick, and the new patches were allegedly taken by Respondent.

15 4. Complainant provided Board staff with an email outlining concerns disclosed to
16 her from the daughter of Patient 1 which included the following in part:

17 a. The daughter phoned the office on 09/06/23 indicating Respondent was
18 offering to change Patient 1's fentanyl patches but Patient 1 was still
19 experiencing uncontrolled and agonizing pain for a month.

20 b. The family began marking the fentanyl patches with a sharpie pen to identify
21 if the patch was being changed and they could never find old discarded
22 patches in the trash.

23 c. The family claimed band aides were being placed over the patches and
24 Respondent represented the patches were not sicky enough.
25

1 d. Respondent showed up on the weekend of 08/26 in regular clothes to ask if it
2 was the day to change the patch.

3 5. Additionally, a report was filed with the Camp Verde Marshal Office outlining
4 these concerns that Respondent may have been taking Patient 1's fentanyl patches.

5 6. Upon receipt of this complaint, Board staff sent Respondent a notice of complaint
6 with due date for her written response to the complaint as 10/17/23.

7 7. Board staff emailed Respondent after receipt of this complaint asking if she
8 would be willing to voluntarily complete a 10-panel hair follicle test.

9 8. On 09/28/23, Board staff received a letter of representation from Respondent's
10 attorney which also stated that Respondent would not be completing a hair follicle test as
11 requested by Board staff.

12 9. Board staff subsequently emailed Respondent's attorney that this matter would
13 be presented at the 10/13/23 Board meeting for the members to issue an Interim Order ordering
14 Respondent to complete a 10-panel hair follicle test.

15 10. Board staff did not receive a response after notifying Respondent's attorney of
16 the 10/13/23 Board meeting.

17 11. Neither Respondent nor her attorney were present at the 10/13/23 Board
18 meeting.

19 12. At the 10/13/23 Board meeting the members voted unanimously to issue and
20 Interim Order ordering Respondent to complete a 10-panel hair follicle test within ten days of the
21 order.

22 13. On 10/19/23, Board staff contacted Respondent's attorney reminding them that
23 the written response to the complaint was overdue and asked for the response to be submitted
24 as soon as possible.

25 ...

1 14. Respondent's attorney responded that Respondent would not be providing a
2 written response to the complaint or completing the ordered hair follicle test.

3 15. Respondent is refusing to comply with a Board order and Board staff's
4 investigation while Board staff has statutory authority to fully investigate complaints of
5 unprofessional conduct.

6 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

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

10 2. The conduct and circumstances described in the Findings of Fact constitute a
11 violation of A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(k), engaging in any conduct or practice that is contrary to
12 recognized standards of ethics in the behavioral health profession or that constitutes a danger
13 to the health, welfare or safety of a client, as it relates to the following sections of the NASW
14 Code of Ethics:

15 **4.05 Impairment**

16 (a) Social workers should not allow their own personal problems, psychosocial
17 distress, legal problems, substance abuse, or mental health difficulties to
18 interfere with their professional judgment and performance or to jeopardize the
19 best interests of people for whom they have a professional responsibility.

20 (b) Social workers whose personal problems, psychosocial distress, legal
21 problems, substance abuse, or mental health difficulties interfere with their
22 professional judgment and performance should immediately seek consultation
23 and take appropriate remedial action by seeking professional help, making
24 adjustments in workload, terminating practice, or taking any other steps
25 necessary to protect clients and others.

1 3. The conduct and circumstances described in the Findings of Fact constitute a
2 violation of A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(n), failing to comply with or violating, attempting to violate or
3 assisting in or abetting the violation of any provision of this chapter, any rule adopted pursuant
4 to this chapter, any lawful order of the board, or any formal order, consent agreement, term of
5 probation or stipulated agreement issued under this chapter.

6 4. The conduct and circumstances described in the Findings of Fact constitute a
7 violation of A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(o), failing to furnish information within a specified time to the
8 board or its investigators or representatives if legally requested by the board.


9 **ORDER**

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

12 1. Respondent's license, LMSW-15632, shall be surrendered to the Board, effective
13 from the date of entry as signed below.

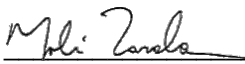
14 2. The surrender shall be considered a revocation of Respondent's license.

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

17 
[Christine Ostrom \(Nov 7, 2023 11:52 MST\)](#)
18 Christine O. Ostrom

Nov 7, 2023
Date

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

20 By: 
21 TOBI ZAVALA, Executive Director
22 Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners

Nov 13, 2023
Date

23 **ORIGINAL** of the foregoing filed Nov 13, 2023
24 with:

25 ...

1 Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners
2 1740 West Adams Street, Suite 3600
3 Phoenix, AZ 85007

4 **EXECUTED COPY** of the foregoing sent electronically Nov 13, 2023
5 to:

6 Mona Baskin
7 Assistant Attorney General
8 2005 North Central Avenue
9 Phoenix, AZ 85004

10 Christine O. Ostrom
11 Address of Record
12 Respondent

13 Sebrina M. Shaw
14 Shaw Law Firm
15 698 Cove Parkway Suite A
16 Cottonwood, AZ 86326
17 Attorney for Respondent
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25