

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA
BOARD OF LICENSED CLINICAL
MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS

IN THE MATTER OF:

Catherine Gneiting,
Respondent
No. S8757

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CONSENT ORDER

THIS CAUSE, coming on to be heard and being heard before the North Carolina Board of Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors [“the Board”], regarding pending complaint number 2209; and

IT APPEARING to the Board that the Respondent has stipulated to certain facts and to the entry of a Consent Order in conformity therewith;

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED by the undersigned Respondent and the Board for the purposes of this disciplinary proceeding that:

1. Respondent was at all times relevant to this cause a licensed clinical mental health counselor supervisor and is subject to the Board’s jurisdiction pursuant to the North Carolina Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors Act, Chapter 90, Article 24 of the North Carolina General Statutes.
2. The Board issued a counseling license to Respondent on May 23, 2011. On September 6, 2016, Respondent became a licensed clinical mental health supervisor [“LCMHCS”], which license she renewed through June 30, 2026.
3. The Board’s Ethics Review Committee found probable cause that Respondent engaged in the following conduct while licensed by the Board:
 - a. Complainant is the mother of a 14-year-old female to whom Respondent was providing counseling services to help with her low self-esteem, social anxiety, and negative body image [“Client”].
 - b. During the Client’s third session, Respondent took Client into another room and took several photos of her, which Respondent asserted was to address the above issues.
 - c. After this session, Client reported to Complainant that the session was “weird” and explained to Complainant that Respondent reviewed the pictures she took of her with her and made comments about her clothes and appearance.
 - d. Respondent’s records for the Client contained no documentation of any boundary extension, including regarding taking pictures or having reviewed those pictures with Client during that third counseling session.
 - e. This conduct occurred in October 2024, which was after the Board entered a prior Consent Order of Reprimand against Respondent in April 2024 for practice outside

her areas of competence and while Respondent had not yet completed the required continuing education on the ethics of counseling under the prior Consent Order.

4. Respondent's conduct, as set forth above, violated Sections A.6.b. and A.6.c. of the American Counseling Association Code of Ethics (2014) and N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 90-340 (a)(9) of the North Carolina Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors Act.

5. The Board and Respondent wish to avoid the time and the costs associated with full litigation of this matter and, *in lieu* of any proceedings, enter into this Consent Order.

6. Respondent expressly waives notice of hearing, a hearing, the making of findings of fact and conclusions of law, and all further proceedings before the Board to which Respondent may be entitled by law. Respondent further agrees that presentation of this Consent Order to the Board for approval shall not constitute improper *ex parte* communication between the Board and its counsel, or the Board and its staff, nor require the recusal of the members of the Board from consideration of this matter before the full Board, should a hearing be required in this case.

7. Respondent forever releases the State of North Carolina, the North Carolina Board of Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors, and all its members, officials, agents, counsel, representatives, and employees, both past and present, in their individual or official capacities from any and all liability, suits, claims, and causes of action arising prior to or as a result of the execution of this Consent Order.

8. Respondent waives the right to seek judicial review or to otherwise challenge the validity of this Consent Order in any court or before the Board in the future. Respondent understands and agrees that this Consent Order shall be effective only after approval by the full Board and signature of its Chairperson.

9. Respondent was either represented by legal counsel in connection with the consideration and execution of this Consent Order or, alternatively, was free to engage such legal counsel concerning this Consent Order and its terms prior to the time that Respondent executed this Consent Order. The Board was represented in this Consent Order by Douglas Brocker of The Brocker Law Firm, P.A.

10. This Consent Order contains the entire agreement between the undersigned, there being no agreement of any kind, verbal or otherwise, which varies, alters, or adds to this Consent Order.

11. This Consent Order shall constitute disciplinary action against the license of Respondent, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §90-340(a) and (b). Respondent understands that this Consent Order may have adverse consequences in other contexts, which shall not be the basis for reconsideration of its terms in the future.

12. Respondent has read this entire Consent Order, assents to its terms and conditions, and agrees not to contest the findings, conclusions, or order in any future potential proceedings by, against, or involving the Board.

13. Respondent agrees to service of the fully executed Consent Order to the following address or email provided to the Board and waives service by any other method: 408 Commons Drive South, Jacksonville, NC 28546; cathy@cgcounseling.com.

Based upon the record and the foregoing stipulations,

NOW, THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

I. Respondent's license number S8757 is suspended for one year, but the suspension is immediately stayed and her license placed on PROBATION, with no active suspension, provided she complies with all the following conditions:

- a. Respondent shall complete a minimum of 2,000 hours of supervised clinical mental health practice under these conditions:
 - i. The supervisor shall be approved by the Board, pursuant to Administrative Rules 21 NCAC 53 .0702 and 21 NCAC 53 .0801, to supervise Respondent's professional practice ["Supervisor"], prior to the beginning of supervision;
 - ii. The supervision contract shall be filed with the Board office no later than 60 days from the date the Consent Order is entered by the Board;
 - iii. Respondent shall provide a copy of the Consent Order to her Supervisor. The Supervisor(s) shall confirm the receipt of the Consent Order in the first supervision report;
 - iv. Of the required 2,000 hours of supervised clinical mental health practice, 1,320 hours shall be direct service to clients;
 - v. The supervised experience shall be completed at a rate of no more than 40 hours per week (one hour of supervision per 40 hours of professional practice);
 - vi. The Supervisor shall file quarterly reports and a final report with the Board. Respondent is responsible for ensuring the Supervisor submits the quarterly reports to the Board no later than January 30, April 30, July 30, and October 30 for the previous quarter; and
 - vii. Respondent shall bear any costs and associated expenses of the supervision.
- b. Within 90 days from the date the Consent Order is entered by the Board, Respondent shall complete 12 CE hours approved in advance by the Board pertaining to informed consent for minors, extending boundaries and documentation, and evidence-based practices (4 hours each). This coursework requirement shall be in addition to the

continuing education coursework required for all licensees under the Board's Administrative Rules. All costs associated with this continuing education requirement shall be borne by Respondent. Upon successful completion of this continuing education coursework, Respondent shall submit to the Board a certificate of completion provided by the continuing education sponsor.

- c. Respondent shall not use her LCMHC Supervisor credential until she completes the terms of the Consent Order. Once this Order is entered, Respondent has ten days to notify any current supervisees that she will no longer be able to supervise them. Respondent shall submit to the Board an updated Professional Disclosure Statement that confirms she is not using her LCMHC Supervisor credential within 30 days from the date the Order is entered.
- d. Respondent shall not violate any provision of the Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors Act and the Board's rules and regulations, including the ACA Code of Ethics.
- e. Respondent shall submit to interviews by the Board or its authorized agent and arrange for the Board or its agent to interview her employer, employees, and co-workers during regular office hours or at such other times as are mutually convenient;
- f. Respondent shall comply with all requirements for renewal of licensure, including continuing education and payment of fees;
- g. Respondent shall keep the Board apprised of her current address, phone number, and email and notify the Board of any change to that contact information no later than ten days after it becomes effective.

II. The Board shall maintain this Consent Order as a public record pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §§132-1 and 90-340(f), shall submit a report to the National Practitioner Databank, and shall provide copies to the American Counseling Association and the National Board of Certified Counselors, and to other agencies or individuals as required by law.

III. Respondent may petition the Board to be released from Probation once she has completed the requirements set forth in Paragraph I above and provides supporting documentation or evidence that she has satisfied all conditions. Respondent shall remain on Probation until the Board grants such a Petition.

IV. The Board recognizes that the conditions, limitations, or requirements set forth in this Consent Order may present Respondent with certain practical difficulties. The Board concludes that each one is necessary to ensure public protection, and it does not intend to modify or eliminate any of the conditions, limitations, or requirements set forth herein based on such potential difficulties, except as noted in Paragraph III.

V. The Board shall retain jurisdiction of this matter and Respondent to enforce the provisions herein or enter orders as necessary in the future.

VI. The failure of Respondent to abide by any provision of this Consent Order, if proven true by a preponderance of the evidence following notice and an opportunity for hearing, may result in the suspension, revocation, or other disciplinary action against Respondent's license, including seeking an injunction in Superior Court, at the Board's discretion.

VII. If Respondent fails to comply with any provision of this Consent Order or breaches any term or condition thereof, the Board shall promptly schedule a public Show Cause Hearing to allow Respondent an opportunity to show cause as to why the suspension of Respondent's license shall not be activated for violating a valid order of the Board. If after the Show Cause Hearing, the Board is satisfied by a preponderance of the evidence that Respondent failed to comply with or breached any term or condition of this Consent Order, the Board shall activate the suspension and also may enter such other discipline or conditions as the evidence warrants for proven violations of the Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors Act or of the Board's Rules occurring after entry of this Consent Order.

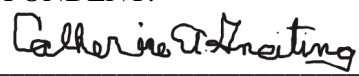
VIII. This Order is effective as of the date it is signed by the Chair and served on Respondent to the above email address.

CONSENTED TO BY:

NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF LICENSED
CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS





BY:  Signed by: 7/22/25
 Dr. Yasmin Gay, LCMHCS Date
Board Chairperson

RESPONDENT:

 05 / 27 / 2025
Catherine Gneiting Date

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