

**Louisiana Licensed Professional
Counselors Board of Examiners**

**IN THE MATTER OF
NUMBER: 20/21-151**

COMPLAINT

**DEONDRA SMITH, LPC
LICENSE NO: 4513**

LPC

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

WHEREAS, DEONDRA SMITH (“MS. SMITH”) is a Licensed Professional Counselor (“LPC”) 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.);

WHEREAS, on or about June 11, 2021, the Louisiana Licensed Professional Counselors Board of Examiners (“LPCBE”) received information regarding MS. SMITH’s failure to notify the LPCBE of her arrest on September 13, 2018, for misdemeanor theft, on the last renewal application she submitted to the LPCBE;

WHEREAS, by letter dated July 2, 2021, the LPCBE notified MS. SMITH of a LPCBE-initiated Complaint, provided MS. SMITH with a summary of the nature of the complaint, and requested that MS. SMITH, within thirty (30) days, provide a statement giving her review of the circumstances, which are the subject of the complaint;

WHEREAS, by email correspondence dated July 30, 2021, MS. SMITH submitted a response to the Complaint in a timely fashion, wherein she provided her explanation of the relevant facts;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Complaint and administrative investigation, the respondent, DEONDRA SMITH, has indicated her desire to resolve this matter through a Consent Agreement and Order as provided for in LAC 46:LX §1311;

WHEREAS, the Respondent, DEONDRA SMITH, LPC, has admitted the following:

1. Respondent, DEONDRA SMITH, is a Licensed

Professional Counselor licensed by the LPCBE to engage in the practice of mental health counseling in the State of Louisiana, as evidenced by LPC License Number 4513.

2. At all times pertinent to the facts of this case, DEONDRA SMITH was actively engaged in the practice of mental health counseling at Loving Hearts of LA PCA Services Lafayette.
3. DEONDRA SMITH failed to notify the Louisiana Licensed Professional Counselors Board of Examiners of her arrest on September 13, 2018, for misdemeanor theft in Lafayette, Louisiana.
4. DEONDRA SMITH admits that her actions were in violation of La. R.S. 37:1110(A)(3)(9), LPC Rules, Chapter 6, §605(B)(5)(c), Chapter 13, §1301(A)(B), Chapter 21, §2107(A)(1)(a)(6)(d), and §2117(A)(1)(a).

WHEREAS, DEONDRA SMITH had indicated her desire to resolve this matter through a Consent Agreement and Order;

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

WHEREAS, the Respondent, DEONDRA SMITH, 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. Any other violation or failure of strict compliance with any of the terms and conditions set forth in this Consent Agreement and Order by MS. SMITH shall be deemed adequate and sufficient cause for the LPCBE to immediately suspend the license of MS. SMITH to practice mental health counseling in the State of Louisiana for a period of up to two (2) years, as determined by the LPCBE. Any such disciplinary actions may be taken by the LPCBE at a regularly scheduled meeting or special meeting of the LPCBE, without the need to institute new disciplinary proceedings against MS. SMITH.

WHEREAS, Respondent, DEONDRA SMITH, recognizes her right to have an administrative adjudication of the charges outlined in the complaint and notice letter, at which time MS.

SMITH would be entitled to be represented by legal counsel, to call 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. SMITH nonetheless hereby waives her right to formal adjudication and, pursuant to La. R.S. 49:955(D), consents to the entry of the Consent Agreement and Order set forth hereinafter. MS. SMITH 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 effect 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. SMITH accepts the following administrative action, which is a final decision pursuant to La. R.S. 49:958:

1. The LPC license of DEONDRA SMITH to be engaged in the practice of mental health counseling in the State of Louisiana, as evidenced by LPC license number 4513 shall be, and is hereby REPRIMANDED and by the Consent Order, and upon MS. SMITH's acceptance of, and strict compliance with, the following terms and conditions.
2. MS. SMITH shall obtain six (6) continuing education hours in ethics approved by the National Board of Certified Counselors ("NBCC"), the American Counseling Association ("ACA"), or the Louisiana Counseling Association ("LCA"). The continuing education hours must be completed before her licensure renewal date of June 30, 2023. These continuing education hours must be completed in ADDITION to all standard renewal requirements for licensure.
3. MS. SMITH 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 Board, 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. SMITH shall pay a fine as authorized by La. R.S. 37:1106(D) for the above referred violations in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) within two (2) years from the date that all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order, which payments 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 Board, 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.
5. MS. SMITH shall report the terms of this Consent Agreement and its approval to any board or agency located in the United States with which she is licensed.
6. MS. SMITH further acknowledges and agrees that any other violation or failure of strict compliance with any of the terms and conditions set forth in this Consent Agreement and Order by MS. SMITH shall be deemed adequate and sufficient cause for the LPCBE to immediately suspend the license of MS. SMITH to practice mental health counseling in the State of Louisiana for a period of up to two (2) years, as determined by the LPCBE.
7. By agreeing to the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order, MS. SMITH 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 LPCBE 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, Case No. 20/21-151, adopt the Consent Agreement and Order in the matter on January 21, 2022.

**LOUISIANA LICENSED PROFESSIONAL
COUNSELORS BOARD OF EXAMINERS**

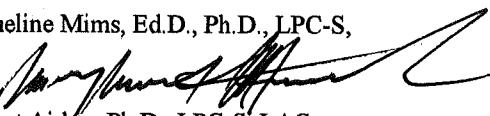
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Board Member

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 DEONDRA SMITH, LPC could be charged under Complaint Number 20/21-151; 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 Date

 1/21/22

I, **DEONDRA SMITH, LPC**, make these acknowledgements and waivers in support of a final disposition of the pending investigation of Complaint Number 20/21-151 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, by agreement to this Order. By my subscription hereto, I also hereby authorize the 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.

Deondra Smith, 1.13.22

DEONDRA SMITH Date

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

DATED:

January 13, 2022

by Deondra Leigh Smith
Deondra Leigh Smith

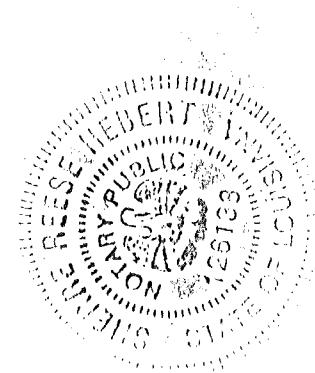
DEONDRA SMITH

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 13th day of January, 2021, at Lafayette, Louisiana.

Sheme Reese Hebert #126138

Notary Public

Print Name: *Sheme Reese Hebert*



My Commission Expires: At Death 2179774.v1