

**BEFORE THE MINNESOTA
BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND THERAPY**

In the Matter of
Sequoia Esperanza Harmon, LADC
License Number: 306132

**STIPULATION AND
CONSENT ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by Sequoia Esperanza Harmon, LADC
("Licensee"), and the Minnesota Board of Behavioral Health and Therapy ("Board") as follows:

JURISDICTION

1. During all times herein, Licensee has been and now is subject to the jurisdiction of the Board from which she holds a license to practice alcohol and drug counseling in the State of Minnesota.

FACTS

2. For the purposes of this Stipulation, the Board finds the following:
- a. On August 5, 2021, the Board granted Licensee a license to practice alcohol and drug counseling in the State of Minnesota.
 - a. While Licensee was working as an alcohol and drug counselor in a residential treatment facility ("facility") in Minnesota, she provided individual and group therapy services to a client ("Client") in the summer and fall of 2023. Between October 11, 2023 and November 3, 2023, Licensee and Client exchanged more than 500 messages and 80 phone calls on their personal cell phones.
 - b. On October 26, 2023, Licensee submitted a letter of resignation to the facility effective November 16, 2023.
 - c. On November 3, 2023, Client was discharged from the facility.

d. On January 1, 2024, Client died unexpectedly. Following Client's death, Licensee reported to police that she and Client were living together and had been dating since October 2023.

REGULATIONS

3. The Board views Licensee's conduct as described in paragraph 2 above to be in violation of statutes and rules enforced by the Board. Licensee agrees that the conduct cited above constitutes violation of Minn. Stat. §§ 148F.09, subd. 1(1) pursuant to § 148F.165, subd. 7 (sexual behavior with former client); 1(3) (unprofessional conduct); and 1(10) (conduct with a client that is sexual or may reasonably be interpreted by the client as sexual), and constitute a reasonable basis in law and fact and justifying the disciplinary action provided for in this order.

REMEDY

4. Upon the foregoing facts and all the files, records, and proceedings herein, the board determines that disciplinary action is warranted. Upon this stipulation and without any further notice or proceedings, the Board hereby accepts the **VOLUNTARY SURRENDER** of Licensee's license to practice alcohol and drug counseling in the state of Minnesota as follows:

a. Licensee must not practice, attempt to practice, offer to practice, or advertise or hold herself out as authorized to practice as an alcohol and drug counselor in Minnesota and shall not use the title "Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor," "LADC," or any designation which indicates licensure as an alcohol and drug counselor.

b. Should Licensee reapply for licensure as an alcohol and drug counselor in Minnesota, the complaint against Licensee will be reopened and Licensee must appear before a Board Complaint Resolution Committee to discuss the issues raised by the complaint, as well as any complaints received after the surrender of Licensee's license. Licensee agrees that this

Stipulation and Consent Order will serve to toll any applicable statute of limitations. Licensee may reapply for licensure. At the time of application, Licensee shall demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that she is capable of practicing as an alcohol and drug counselor in a fit, competent, and ethical manner and with reasonable skill and safety to clients. Licensee cannot be relicensed in Minnesota until further order of the Board, which may include conditions and/or restrictions on Licensee's license.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

5. In the event the Board in its discretion does not approve this settlement or a lesser remedy than indicated in this settlement, then, and in that event, this Stipulation is withdrawn and shall be of no evidentiary value and shall not be relied upon nor introduced by either party to this Stipulation, except that Licensee agrees that should the Board reject this Stipulation and this case proceeds to hearing, Licensee will assert no claim that the Board was prejudiced by its review and discussion of this Stipulation or of any records relating to this matter.

6. Any appropriate court may, upon application of the Board, enter its decree enforcing this order of the Board.

7. Licensee has been advised that she may choose to be represented by an attorney in this matter. Licensee is self-represented. The Committee is represented by Daniel Schueppert, Assistant Attorney General.

8. Licensee waives all formal hearings on this matter and all other procedures before the Board to which Licensee may be entitled under the Minnesota or United States constitutions, statutes, or rules and agrees that the order to be entered pursuant to the Stipulation shall be the final order herein.

9. Licensee hereby knowingly and voluntarily waives any and all claims against the Board, the Minnesota Attorney General's Office, and the State of Minnesota and their agents, employees, and representatives which may otherwise be available to Licensee relative to the action taken or authorized against Licensee's licensee to practice as an alcohol and drug counselor under this Stipulation.

10. Licensee hereby acknowledges that she has read, understands, and agrees to the Stipulation and has freely and voluntarily signed the Stipulation without threat or promise by the Board or any of its members, employees, or agents. When signing the Stipulation, Licensee acknowledges she is fully aware the Stipulation is not binding unless and until it is approved by the Board. The Board may either approve the Stipulation and Consent Order as proposed, approve the Stipulation and Consent Order subject to specified change, or reject it. If the changes are acceptable to Licensee, the Stipulation will then take effect and the order as modified will be issued. If the changes are unacceptable to Licensee or the Board rejects the Stipulation, it will be of no effect except as specified herein.

11. This Stipulation and Consent Order constitutes a disciplinary action against Licensee.

12. This Stipulation and Consent Order is a public document and may be sent to all appropriate data banks.

13. This Stipulation contains the entire agreement between the parties there being no other agreement of any kind, verbal or otherwise, which varies this Stipulation.

LICENSEE:


SEQUOIA ESPERANZA HARMON, LADC

Dated: 7/24/2024

COMPLAINT RESOLUTION
COMMITTEE:

DocuSigned by:

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COMMITTEE MEMBER

Dated: 7/30/2024

ORDER

Upon consideration of the Stipulation, the Board hereby accepts the **VOLUNTARY SURRENDER** of Licensee's license to practice as a licensed alcohol and drug counselor and adopts all of the terms described above on this 26th day of July, 2024.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH AND THERAPY



SAMANTHA STREHLO
Executive Director