

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
WAKE COUNTY

CASE 2024-07

IN A MATTER  
BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA  
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY LICENSURE BOARD

IN RE:

SARAH STUCHELL,  
Respondent

CONSENT ORDER

THIS CAUSE coming to be heard and being heard before the North Carolina Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Board (the "Board") pursuant to a statement of charges issued by the Board on December 4, 2024, which charges are pending; 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 that:

1. Respondent was at all times relevant to this matter a licensed marriage and family therapist subject to the Board's jurisdiction pursuant to the Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Act, Chapter 90, Article 18C of the North Carolina General Statutes.
2. During the time period including July 2023 - May 2024, Respondent provided therapy services to the Complainant herein ("Complainant") and her family.

3. On July 3, 2024, after therapy with the Complainant was discontinued, she filed Complaint 2024-07 with the Board alleging ethical violations arising from such therapy.
4. After investigation, the Board found probable cause to believe Respondent had violated the provisions of Sections 1.3, 1.8 and 2.2 of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Code of Ethics (2015) and (2) North Carolina General Statute 90-270.60(a)(9), and issued a statement of charges accordingly.
5. Respondent has denied any ethical or statutory violations.
6. Following an informal meeting between the Ethics Committee and Respondent and her counsel, all parties have agreed to resolution of this matter by these provisions: (a) the Respondent's license will be placed on probation for a period of twelve (12) months; (b) her practice will be supervised by an AAMFT-approved and Board-approved supervisor during this time, with monthly supervision reports on a Board-provided form; and (c) during this time she will take, in addition to the standard annual requirements, at least three (3) hours of ethics continuing education on each of the following topics: multiple relationships (1.3), client autonomy (1.8), written authorization to release information

(2.2), and boundaries, with the courses to be approved by the Ethics Committee.

7. Upon fulfillment of the above requirements and successful completion of the supervised probationary period without further ethical violation, Respondent may return to full licensure. If these requirements are not fulfilled, the Board may take further disciplinary action against her.
8. The Board has complied with all notice, procedural and other requirements relating to Respondent and this matter imposed by all applicable law.
9. The Board has jurisdiction over the person of the Respondent in this matter and over the subject matter of this proceeding.
10. Respondent expressly waives any right she may have to a hearing in this matter, to the making of finding of facts and conclusions of law, and to any judicial review of this matter.
11. Respondent forever releases the State of North Carolina, the Board, and all its members, officials, agents and representatives, 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.

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

13. Respondent acknowledges that prior to signing this Consent Order she has had the opportunity to obtain legal advice concerning every aspect of this Consent Order.

14. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that she has entered into and signed this Consent Order voluntarily and without coercion or duress.

15. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that this Consent Order will become effective on the date it is signed and dated by the Board's Chair.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED as follows:

- I. Respondent's license to practice as a Marriage and Family Therapist is hereby placed on probation for a period of twelve (12) months, during which time her practice will be supervised by an AAMFT-approved and Board-approved supervisor, with monthly supervision reports to the Board on a Board-provided form;

- II. During this time Respondent shall take, beyond the standard requirements, at least three (3) hours of ethics continuing education on each of the following topics: multiple relationships, client autonomy, written authorization to release information, and boundaries, with the courses to be approved by the Board's Ethics Committee.
- III. Upon satisfactory compliance with these terms and no ethical violations, this matter will be concluded, and Respondent may return to full licensure. If these requirements are not fulfilled, the Board may take further disciplinary action against her.
- IV. This Order shall become effective upon signature by the Board chair.
- V. The Board shall maintain this Consent Order as a public record pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 90-270.60(f).

This the 31 of July, 2025.


CONSENTED TO BY:

North Carolina Marriage and Family  
Therapy Licensure Board

By: 

Jon Winek, Chair

Date: 7/31/2025

The Respondent: 

Sarah Stuchell

Date: 7-30-25

Counsel for Respondent:



Joshua Walthall

Date: 7/30/25