

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

CASE 2025-08

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

IN RE:

STELLA THEPAUT,
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, 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 and is 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 2024 and 2025, Respondent was engaged in the practice of marriage and family therapy in the state of North Carolina.
3. During this time, Respondent provided therapy to, among

others, two minor brothers at their father's request. Respondent recommended family therapy and collaborative parenting calls. The mother (the complainant herein) agreed, but after some time refused to participate in collaborative parenting calls any further.

4. The complainant subsequently filed a complaint with the Board alleging ethical violations. Respondent filed a response. On November 6, 2025, the Board requested further information from Respondent. In January 2026, the Board's investigator interviewed Respondent, who thereafter provided further information to the Board.
5. On March 27, 2026, the Board provided Respondent a statement of charges, including violations of 1.2 (Informed Consent) and 1.3 (Multiple Relationships) of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Code of Ethics (2015) (the "Ethics Code"), which standards had been adopted by North Carolina General Statute 90-270.60(a)(9) and 21 NCAC 31.0609.
6. Respondent has agreed to resolution of this matter by consent.
7. The Board has complied with all notice, procedural and other requirements relating to Respondent and this matter imposed by all applicable law.
8. The Board has jurisdiction over the person of the Respondent

in this matter and over the subject matter of this proceeding.

9. The Respondent and the Board have agreed to resolve this matter by these provisions: (a) the Respondent's practice will be supervised by an AAMFT - approved and Board-approved supervisor for a period of twelve (12) months; (b) Respondent will take at least six (6) hours of ethics continuing education regarding section 1.2 Informed Consent of the Ethics Code, at least six (6) hours regarding 1.3 Multiple Relationships, at least three (3) hours regarding section 3.12 Professional Misconduct, at least three (3) hours regarding provision of therapy in high conflict divorce situations, with the courses pre-approved by the Board's Ethics Committee, and any other courses recommended by the supervisor; and (c) Respondent will pay to the Board costs of \$187.50 during the twelve-month period.
10. If these requirements are not fulfilled, the Board may take further disciplinary action against the Respondent pursuant to N. C. Gen. Stat. 90-270.60.
11. 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.
12. The 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.

13. 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.

14. The 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.

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

16. The 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 practice as a Marriage and Family Therapist will be supervised by an AAMFT-approved and Board-approved supervisor for a period of twelve (12) months;

- II. During the supervision period, Respondent shall take at least six (6) hours of ethics continuing education regarding section 1.2 Informed Consent, at least six (6) hours regarding section 1.3 Multiple Relationships, at least three (3) hours regarding 3.12 Professional Misconduct, at least three (3) hours regarding provision of therapy in high conflict divorce situations, with the courses pre-approved by the Board's Ethics Committee, and any additional courses recommended by her supervisor.
- III. During the supervision period, Respondent will pay to the Board costs of \$187.50.
- IV. If these requirements are not fulfilled, the Board may take further disciplinary action against Respondent pursuant to N. C. General Statute 90-270.60.
- V. The Board shall maintain this Consent Order as a public record pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 90-270.60(f).

This the _____ of _____, 2026.

CONSENTED TO BY:

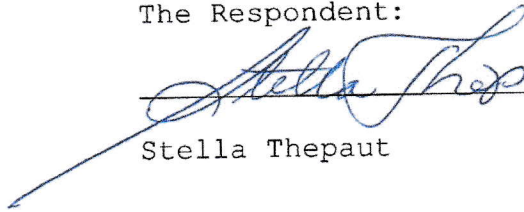
North Carolina Marriage and Family
Therapy Licensure Board

By:  _____

Jon Winek, Chair

Date: 07/24/26

The Respondent:

 _____, LMFT
Stella Thepaut

Date: 7-23-2026