

**BEFORE THE ARIZONA BOARD
OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EXAMINERS**

In the Matter of:

**Kristen N. Vasosaust, LPC Applicant,
In the State of Arizona.**

RESPONDENT

CASE NO. 2025-0233

**CONSENT AGREEMENT
FOR ISSUANCE OF LICENSE**

In the interest of a prompt and speedy settlement of the above captioned matter, consistent with the public interest, statutory requirements and responsibilities of the Arizona State Board of Behavioral Health Examiners ("Board"), and pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 32-3281(F) and 41-1092.07(F)(5), Kristen N. Vasosaust ("Respondent") and the Board enter into this Consent Agreement, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order ("Consent Agreement") as a final disposition of this matter.

RECITALS

Respondent understands and agrees that:

1. Any record prepared in this matter, all investigative materials prepared or received by the Board concerning the allegations, and all related materials and exhibits may be retained in the Board's file pertaining to this matter.

2. Respondent has the right to a formal administrative hearing at which Respondent can present evidence and cross examine the State's witnesses. Respondent hereby irrevocably waives their right to such formal hearing concerning these allegations and irrevocably waives their right to any rehearing or judicial review relating to the allegations contained in this Consent Agreement.

3. Respondent has the right to consult with an attorney prior to entering into this Consent Agreement.

1 4. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that upon signing this Consent
2 Agreement and returning it to the Board's Executive Director, Respondent may not revoke their
3 acceptance of this Consent Agreement or make any modifications to it. Any modification of this
4 original document is ineffective and void unless mutually approved by the parties in writing.

5 5. The findings contained in the Findings of Fact portion of this Consent Agreement
6 are conclusive evidence of the facts stated herein between only Respondent and the Board for
7 the final disposition of this matter and may be used for purposes of determining sanctions in any
8 future disciplinary matter.

9 6. This Consent Agreement is subject to the Board's approval, and will be effective
10 only when the Board accepts it. In the event the Board in its discretion does not approve this
11 Consent Agreement, this Consent Agreement is withdrawn and shall be of no evidentiary value,
12 nor shall it be relied upon or introduced in any disciplinary action by any party hereto, except
13 that Respondent agrees that should the Board reject this Consent Agreement and this case
14 proceeds to hearing, Respondent shall assert no claim that the Board was prejudiced by its
15 review and discussion of this document or of any records relating thereto.

16 7. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that the acceptance of this Consent
17 Agreement is solely to settle this Board matter and does not preclude the Board from instituting
18 other proceedings as may be appropriate now or in the future. Furthermore, and
19 notwithstanding any language in this Consent Agreement, this Consent Agreement does not
20 preclude in any way any other state agency or officer or political subdivision of this state from
21 instituting proceedings, investigating claims, or taking legal action as may be appropriate now or
22 in the future relating to this matter or other matters concerning Respondent, including but not
23 limited to violations of Arizona's Consumer Fraud Act. Respondent acknowledges that, other
24 than with respect to the Board, this Consent Agreement makes no representations, implied or

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1 otherwise, about the views or intended actions of any other state agency or officer or political
2 subdivision of the state relating to this matter or other matters concerning Respondent.

3 8. Respondent understands that once the Board approves and signs this Consent
4 Agreement, it is a public record that may be publicly disseminated as a formal action of the
5 Board, and that it shall be reported as required by law to the National Practitioner Data Bank.

6 9. Respondent further understands that any violation of this Consent Agreement
7 constitutes unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(n) and may result in
8 disciplinary action pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3281.

9 10. The Board therefore retains jurisdiction over Respondent and may initiate
10 disciplinary action against Respondent if it determines that they have failed to comply with the
11 terms of this Consent Agreement or of the practice act.

12 The Board issues the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order:

13 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

14 1. Respondent is an applicant for licensure for the practice of counseling in the
15 State of Arizona.

16 2. From 01/01/22 – 05/19/22, Respondent was licensed as an LPC with the Board.

17 3. On 03/22/22, the Board received a complaint from a client including allegations
18 that Respondent exhibited unethical behavior.

19 4. As a result of the Board complaint, Respondent signed a consent agreement to
20 voluntarily surrender her license which included several violations of unprofessional conduct,
21 which was effective 05/17/22.

22 5. On 02/27/24, Respondent submitted her LPC application with the Board in which
23 she answered affirmative to the background question regarding having a license previously
24 revoked by a state regulatory board.

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1 6. On 08/13/24, Respondent provided a written statement to Board staff attesting to
2 what she has done since the revocation of her prior license which included the following in part:

- 3 a. Respondent has never arrived to a place of employment under the influence
4 of alcohol or substances.
- 5 b. Respondent has been engaging in numerous coping skills to help her.
- 6 c. Respondent engaged in a variety of services to address personal issues and
7 her conduct that led to her prior revocation.
- 8 d. Respondent has participated in various continuing education.
- 9 e. Respondent obtained a certified consulting hypnotist certification, a certified
10 professional life coach certification, and attended a 3-day hypnotherapy clinic
11 and ethical decision-making training.

12 7. Respondent provided a recovery meeting attendance sheet showing she
13 attended 31 recovery meetings from 08/22 – 11/23.

14 8. Several of Respondent's providers provided letters attesting to Respondent's
15 progress and recommendations for licensure.

16 9. In several other written statements to the Board Respondent represented the
17 following:

- 18 a. Respondent acknowledges her prior actions were influenced by insecurities
19 and a need for validation, which compromised her professional boundaries.
- 20 b. After stepping away from clinical work, she began addressing underlying
21 issues, leading to significant personal rehabilitation.
- 22 c. Respondent was facing many personal life stressors around the time of her
23 license revocation including issues with her employer and issues at home.
- 24 d. She has taken several steps such as taking an ethics course and obtaining
25 various professional certifications.

10. Since 2020, Respondent has consistently engaged in various services to address personal issues that led to the revocation of her previous license.

11. Despite Respondent previously surrendering her license for egregious boundary crossings, Respondent has taken initiative to engage in a variety of services to address personal issues.

12. Respondent appears to have been open with all of her providers since the revocation of her license in order to address her boundary issues.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Board has jurisdiction over Respondent pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3251 *et seq.* and the rules promulgated by the Board relating to Respondent's professional practice as a licensed behavioral health professional.

2. The conduct and circumstances described in the Findings of Fact constitute a violation of A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(I), engaging in any conduct, practice or condition that impairs the ability of the licensee to safely and competently practice the licensee's profession.

ORDER

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the parties agree to the provisions and penalties imposed as follows:

1. Respondent's application to be a Licensed Professional Counselor is approved.

2. The license issued to Respondent pursuant to paragraph 1 will be immediately placed on probation for 24 months.

3. Respondent shall not practice under their license, Licensed Professional Counselor, unless they are fully compliant with all terms and conditions in this Consent Agreement. If, for any reason, Respondent is unable to comply with the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement, they shall immediately notify the Board in writing and shall not practice

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1 under their license until they submit a written request to the Board to re-commence compliance
2 with this Consent Agreement. All such requests shall be pre-approved by the Board Chair or
3 designee.

4 4. In the event that Respondent is unable to comply with the terms and conditions
5 of this Consent Agreement, all remaining time frames shall be tolled and remain tolled until such
6 time as they are granted approval to re-commence compliance with the Consent Agreement.

7 **Continuing Education**

8 5. In addition to the continuing education requirements of A.R.S. § 32-3273, within
9 12 months of the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent shall complete 3 clock
10 hours of continuing education addressing HIPAA compliance. All required continuing education
11 shall be pre-approved by the Board Chair or designee. Upon completion, Respondent shall
12 submit a certificate of completion of the required continuing education.

13 6. In addition to the continuing education requirements of A.R.S. § 32-3273, within
14 12 months of the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent shall complete 3 clock
15 hours of continuing education addressing behavioral health ethics. All required continuing
16 education shall be pre-approved by the Board Chair or designee. Upon completion, Respondent
17 shall submit a certificate of completion of the required continuing education.

18 **Clinical Supervision**

19 7. While on probation, Respondent shall submit to clinical supervision for 24 months
20 by a masters or higher level behavioral health professional licensed by the Arizona Board of
21 Behavioral Health Examiners at the independent level. Within 30 days of the date of this
22 Consent Agreement, Respondent shall submit the name of a clinical supervisor for pre-approval
23 by the Board Chair or designee. Also within 30 days of the date of this Consent Agreement, the
24 clinical supervisor shall submit a letter disclosing their prior relationship to Respondent. In that

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1 letter, the clinical supervisor must address why they should be approved, acknowledge that they
2 have reviewed the Consent Agreement and include the results of an initial assessment and a
3 supervision plan regarding the proposed supervision of Respondent. The letter from the
4 supervisor shall be submitted to the Board.

5 **Focus and Frequency of Clinical Supervision**

6 8. The focus of the supervision shall relate to boundaries, self-care, Arizona rules
7 and statutes, and confidentiality. For the first 12 months, Respondent shall meet individually
8 with the supervisor for a minimum of one hour twice a month. After the first 12 months, early
9 release is available at the recommendation of the clinical supervisor.

10 **Reports**

11 9. Once approved, the supervisor shall submit quarterly reports for review and
12 approval by the Board Chair or designee. The quarterly reports shall include issues presented in
13 this Consent Agreement that need to be reported and the supervisor shall notify the Board if
14 more frequent supervision is needed. Quarterly reports shall include the following:

15 a. Dates of each clinical supervision session.

16 b. A comprehensive description of issues discussed during supervision
17 sessions.

18 10. All quarterly supervision reports shall include a copy of clinical supervision
19 documentation maintained for that quarter. All clinical supervision documentation maintained by
20 the supervisor shall comply with requirements set forth in A.A.C. R4-6-212(C).

21 11. After Respondent's probationary period, the supervisor shall submit a final
22 summary report for review and approval by the Board Chair or designee. The final report shall
23 also contain a recommendation as to whether the Respondent should be released from this
24 Consent Agreement.

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1 **Change of Clinical Supervisor During Probation**

2 12. If, during the period of Respondent's probation, the clinical supervisor determines
3 that they cannot continue as the clinical supervisor, they shall notify the Board within 10 days of
4 the end of supervision and provide the Board with an interim final report. Respondent shall
5 advise the Board Chair or designee within 30 days of cessation of clinical supervision by the
6 approved clinical supervisor and provide the name of a new proposed clinical supervisor. The
7 proposed clinical supervisor shall provide the same documentation to the Board as was required
8 of the initial clinical supervisor.

9 **Early Release**

10 13. After completion of the stipulations set forth in this consent agreement, and upon
11 the supervisor's recommendation, respondent may request early release from the consent
12 agreement after 12 months.

13 **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

14 **Provision of Clinical Supervision**

15 14. Respondent shall not provide clinical supervision to associate level licensees
16 accruing and submitting hours towards independent licensure while subject to this Consent
17 Agreement.

18 **Civil Penalty**

19 15. Subject to the provisions set forth in paragraph 16, the Board imposes a civil
20 penalty against the Respondent in the amount of \$1,000.00.

21 16. Respondent's payment of the civil penalty shall be stayed so long as Respondent
22 remains compliant with the terms of this Consent Agreement. If Board staff determines that
23 Respondent is noncompliant with the terms of this Consent Agreement in any respect, with the
24 exception of the tolling provision under paragraph 3, the stay of the civil penalty payment shall

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1 be automatically lifted and payment of the civil penalty shall be made by certified check or
2 money order payable to the Board within 30 days after being notified in writing of the lifting of
3 the stay.

4 17. Within 10 days of being notified of the lifting of the stay, Respondent may request
5 that the matter be reviewed by the Board for the limited purpose of determining whether the
6 automatic lifting of the stay was supported by clear and convincing evidence. If the Board
7 receives the written request within 10 days or less of the next regularly scheduled Board
8 meeting, the request will not be heard at that meeting, but will be heard at the next regularly
9 scheduled Board meeting. The Board's decision on this matter shall not be subject to further
10 review.

11 18. The Board reserves the right to take further disciplinary action against
12 Respondent for noncompliance with this Consent Agreement after affording Respondent notice
13 and an opportunity to be heard. If a complaint is filed against Respondent for failure to comply
14 with this Consent Agreement, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final
15 and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.

16 19. If Respondent currently sees clients in their own private practice, and obtains any
17 other type of behavioral health position, either as an employee or independent contractor, where
18 they provide behavioral health services to clients of another individual or agency, they shall
19 comply with requirements set forth in paragraphs 20 through 22 below.

20 20. Within 10 days of the effective date of this Order, if Respondent is working in a
21 position where Respondent provides any type of behavioral health related services or works in a
22 setting where any type of behavioral health, health care, or social services are provided,
23 Respondent shall provide the Board Chair or designee with a signed statement from
24 Respondent's employer(s) confirming Respondent provided the employer(s) with a copy of this

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1 Consent Agreement. If Respondent does not provide the employer's statement to the Board
2 within 10 days of the effective date, the Board will provide Respondent's employer(s) with a
3 copy of the Consent Agreement.

4 21. If Respondent is not employed as of the effective date of this Order, within 10
5 days of accepting employment in a position where Respondent provides any type of behavioral
6 health related services or in a setting where any type of behavioral health, health care, or social
7 services are provided, Respondent shall provide the Board Chair or designee with a written
8 statement providing the contact information of their new employer and a signed statement from
9 Respondent's new employer confirming Respondent provided the employer with a copy of this
10 Consent Agreement. If Respondent does not provide the employer's statement to the Board
11 within 10 days, as required, Respondent's failure to provide the required statement to the Board
12 shall be deemed a violation of A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(n) and the Board will provide Respondent's
13 employer(s) with a copy of the Consent Agreement.

14 22. If, during the period of Respondent's probation, Respondent changes
15 employment, resigns, is involuntarily terminated, resigns in lieu of termination, or goes on
16 extended leave of absence for whatever reason that may impact their ability to timely comply
17 with the terms of probation, Respondent shall, within 10 days of the aforementioned acts, inform
18 the Board of their change of employment status. After the change and within 10 days of
19 accepting employment in a position where Respondent provides any type of behavioral health
20 related services or in a setting where any type of behavioral health, health care, or social
21 services are provided, Respondent shall provide the Board Chair or designee a written
22 statement providing the contact information of their new employer(s) and a signed statement
23 from Respondent's new employer(s) confirming Respondent provided the employer(s) with a
24 copy of this Consent Agreement. If Respondent does not provide the employer's statement to

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1 the Board within 10 days, as required, Respondent's failure to provide the required statement to
2 the Board shall be deemed a violation of A.R.S. § 32-3251(16)(n) and the Board will provide
3 Respondent's employer(s) with a copy of the Consent Agreement.

4 23. Respondent shall practice behavioral health using the name under which they
5 are licensed. If Respondent changes their name, they shall advise the Board of the name
6 change as prescribed under the Board's regulations and rules.

7 24. Prior to the release of Respondent from probation, Respondent must submit a
8 written request to the Board for release from the terms of this Consent Agreement at least 30
9 days prior to the date they would like to have this matter appear before the Board. Respondent
10 may appear before the Board, either in person or telephonically. Respondent must provide
11 evidence that they have successfully satisfied all terms and conditions in this Consent
12 Agreement. The Board has the sole discretion to determine whether all terms and conditions of
13 this Consent Agreement have been met and whether Respondent has adequately demonstrated
14 that they have addressed the issues contained in this Consent Agreement. In the event that the
15 Board determines that any or all terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement have not been
16 met, the Board may conduct such further proceedings as it determines are appropriate to
17 address those matters.

18 25. Respondent shall bear all costs relating to probation terms required in this
19 Consent Agreement.

20 26. Respondent shall be responsible for ensuring that all documentation required in
21 this Consent Agreement is provided to the Board in a timely manner.

22 27. This Consent Agreement shall be effective on the date of entry below.

23 28. This Consent Agreement is conclusive evidence of the matters described herein
24 and may be considered by the Board in determining appropriate sanctions in the event a
25 subsequent violation occurs.

PROFESSIONAL ACCEPTS, SIGNS AND DATES THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Kristen Vasosaust
Kristen Vasosaust (Jan 22, 2025 07:54 EST)
Kristen N. Vasosaust
Jan 22, 2025
Date

BOARD ACCEPTS, SIGNS AND DATES THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT

By: Moli Zavala
TOBI ZAVALA, Executive Director
Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners
Jan 22, 2025
Date

ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed Jan 22, 2025
with:

Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners
1740 West Adams Street, Suite 3600
Phoenix, AZ 85007

EXECUTED COPY of the foregoing sent electronically Jan 22, 2025
to:

Mona Baskin
Assistant Attorney General
2005 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Kristen N. Vasosaust
Address of Record
Respondent