

administration of justice or, where, for reasons of public policy, the openness ordinarily required by our government will be more harmful than beneficial.

3. In the case at bar, Respondent has taken disciplinary action against Petitioner as a consequence of allegations of an inappropriate sexual relationship with Patient X, an individual who received counseling from Respondent relating to sexual abuse that she experienced as a child.

4. If the Court fails to seal these proceedings, it would allow anyone to access the case file and thereby uncover the details of Patient X's history of sexual abuse, as well as the details of her sexual relationship with Petitioner; and as a consequence, subject Patient X to unnecessary embarrassment, undo efforts Patient X has made heretofore to create a normal life for herself and likely prevent her from ever escaping the demons of her past.

5. Furthermore, given the sensitive and intimate nature of sexual abuse, victims must be allowed to volunteer information and testify anonymously about those issues. Failing to shield the identity of victims and seal legal proceedings would cause a chilling effect and discourage victims from coming forward with personal information regarding sexual abuse if related to the issues before the Court.

6. Both the Honorable Selina Brooks, the Administrative Law Judge hearing the underlying Contested Case; and Respondent, in considering the Proposal For Decision, have sealed the record relating to this case.

7. Notwithstanding Chapter 132 of the North Carolina General Statutes and the access of public records granted to the public thereby, the Court, in the interest of justice, for reasons of public policy; and because the openness to the public ordinarily required will be more harmful than beneficial, should permanently seal these proceedings.


NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED as follows:

1. The Record in this case, including the administrative record to be filed by Respondent; the briefs of the parties, and any and all other filings in the case, is, except as may be specifically ordered by the Court, **sealed**.

2. Except as may be specifically ordered by the Court, argument and other proceedings before the Court shall be closed to the public.

3. The Petition For Judicial Review; Respondent's Final Decision, and this Consent Order To Close Proceedings And Seal Record are not subject to the seal.

This the 25 day of February, 2016.



Superior Court Judge

CONSENTED TO BY:

HARRIS & HILTON, P.A.

By: 

Nelson G. Harris
7320 Six Forks Road, Suite 100
Raleigh, NC 27615
Telephone: (919) 848-6164
Email: Nharris@hfhlaw.com

Counsel for Respondent

CRAWFORD & CRAWFORD LLP

By: 

Robert O. Crawford, III
6500 Creedmoor Road, Suite 104
Raleigh, NC 27613
Telephone: (919) 510-8140
Email: Bob@crawfordlaw.biz

Counsel for Petitioner