

# HARRIS & HILTON, P.A.

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September 23, 2019

**BY EMAIL: [julkoc2@yahoo.com](mailto:julkoc2@yahoo.com)  
AND FIRST CLASS MAIL**

Ms. Julie Kocher  
1809 Flint Street  
Asheboro, NC 27203

**Re: EC No. 572-19**

Dear Ms. Kocher:

Enclosed please find a duplicate original of the Consent Order - Censure entered in resolution of the above referenced matter.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

HARRIS & HILTON, P.A.



Nelson G. Harris

NGH:tsm  
Enclosure

cc: Mr. Barden Culbreth (by email) (w/ Enclosure)  
Ms. Elizabeth Ramos (by email) (w/ Enclosure)

**NORTH CAROLINA  
BUNCOMBE COUNTY**

**BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROFESSIONAL  
PRACTICE BOARD**

NORTH CAROLINA SUBSTANCE ABUSE )  
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD, )  
Petitioner )  
v. )  
JULIE KOCHER, )  
Respondent )

**CONSENT ORDER - CENSURE  
EC-572-19**

THIS MATTER is before a Panel of the Ethics Committee ("the Panel") of the North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board ("the Board"), pursuant to Chapter 150B of the North Carolina General Statutes; 21 N.C.A.C. 68.0600, and N.C. Gen. Stat. §90-113.44; with the consent of Respondent Julie Kocher ("Kocher"), in lieu of a formal hearing on issues raised in that ethics complaint filed against her on August 20, 2019 (NC Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board Ethics Complaint No. 572-19).

The Board, with the consent of Kocher, makes the following **FINDINGS OF FACT**:

1. Petitioner North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board ("the Board"), was established by G.S. 90-113.32, and is recognized as the registering, certifying, and licensing authority for substance abuse professionals described in the Practice Act. The Board was established to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare, to protect the public from being harmed by unqualified persons, to assure the highest degree of professional care and conduct on the part of credentialed substance abuse professionals, to provide for the establishment of standards for the education of credentialed substance abuse professionals, and to ensure the availability of credentialed substance abuse professionals of high quality to persons in need of these services. The Board, under authority granted by the Practice Act regulates Board-credentialed persons offering substance abuse counseling services, substance abuse prevention services, or any other substance abuse services for which the Board may grant registration, certification or licensure.
2. Kocher is a citizen and resident of Buncombe County, North Carolina; and is neither a minor nor an incompetent person.
3. On December 19, 2002, Kocher from the Board the Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist credential (LCAS No. 845), which will expire on December 31, 2020, if not renewed.
4. On August 20, 2019, the Board received an Ethics Complaint against Kocher; to which Kocher made response on August 22, 2019.
5. Kocher stipulates to the following facts:
  - a. Prior to August 17, 2019, Kocher was employed as a Substance Abuse

Counselor by Thomasville Treatment Associates.

- b. Prior to August 17, 2019, Kocher anticipated that she would resign her position, however, she did not communicate that to her clients, or make arrangements for a transition of her clients to other substance abuse professionals.
- c. On Saturday, August 17, 2019, Kocher resigned her position with Thomasville Treatment Associates.
- d. Kocher's caseload was divided among other counselors at Thomasville Treatment Associates, however, Kocher did not assist in the transition, or make appropriate arrangements for a transition of her clients to other counselors.

6. The facts and circumstances stipulated to by Kocher are grounds for discipline by the Board, up to and including permanent revocation of any certifications and licenses issued by the Board.

7. More specifically, the facts and circumstances stipulated constitute a failure to withdraw services only after giving consideration to all factors in the situation and taking care to minimize actual or possible effects, in violation of 21 NCAC 68 .0507(d); and a failure by a professional who anticipates the cessation or interruption of service to a client to notify the client promptly and seek the transfer, referral or continuation of service in relation to the client's needs and preferences, in violation of 21 NCAC 68 .0507(f).

8. The parties have agreed, rather than proceed with a Contested Case with respect to the issues raised in the Ethics Complaint, to the informal resolution contained herein.

9. The parties agree that Kocher should be CENSURED for breach of her obligations under 21 NCAC 68 .0507(d) and (f), and that no other discipline should be imposed with respect to this matter.

**BASED UPON THE FOREGOING FINDINGS OF FACT, THE BOARD CONCLUDES AS A MATTER OF LAW:**

1. The Board has the power and authority to impose discipline on Kocher, and the resolution contained herein is an appropriate resolution of this case.

2. Each party should bear its own costs incurred in connection with the Board's investigation.

WHEREFORE, based upon the foregoing FINDINGS OF FACT and CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, and with the consent of the parties, pursuant to the authority set forth in N.C.G.S. § 90-113.33, *et seq.*, it is hereby ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Kocher is hereby CENSURED for her failure to withdraw services only after giving consideration to all factors in the situation and taking care to minimize actual or possible effects on her clients, in violation of 21 NCAC 68 .0507(d); and her failure, given that she anticipated the cessation or interruption of service to her clients, to notify her clients promptly and seek the transfer, referral or continuation of service in relation to the clients' needs and

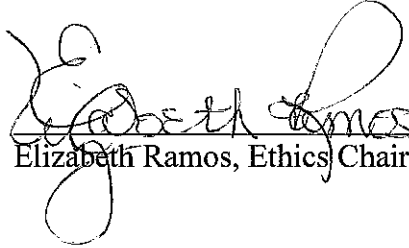
preferences, in violation of 21 NCAC 68 .0507(f).

2. Each party to this proceeding shall bear their own costs, and the Board shall bear its own costs of investigation.

This the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

NORTH CAROLINA SUBSTANCE ABUSE  
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BOARD

By:



Elizabeth Ramos, Ethics Chair

**STATEMENT OF CONSENT**

I, Julie Kocher, do hereby certify that I have read the foregoing Consent Order in its entirety, that I have consulted with counsel concerning the contents and effect of the same (or have had the opportunity to consult with counsel and have not done so), and that I voluntarily accept that there is a factual basis for the findings of fact set forth herein; and that those findings of fact are legally sufficient to support the findings, conclusions and discipline provided for therein, and that I assent to the terms of the Consent Order. I further express my understanding that the contents of this Consent Order shall become a part of my record with the Board, and are a public record under North Carolina law.

This the 11 day of September, 2019.

Julie Kocher  
Julie Kocher

Sworn to and subscribed before me  
this the 11 day of September, 2019.

Janice C. Rayburn  
Notary Public

My commission expires: 9-27-20

