

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF  
SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS (LABSWE)**

**IN THE MATTER OF  
SHERRY GAIL JOHNSON  
LICENSE No. 5324**

**LABSWE COMPLAINT  
NUMBER 2008- 176**

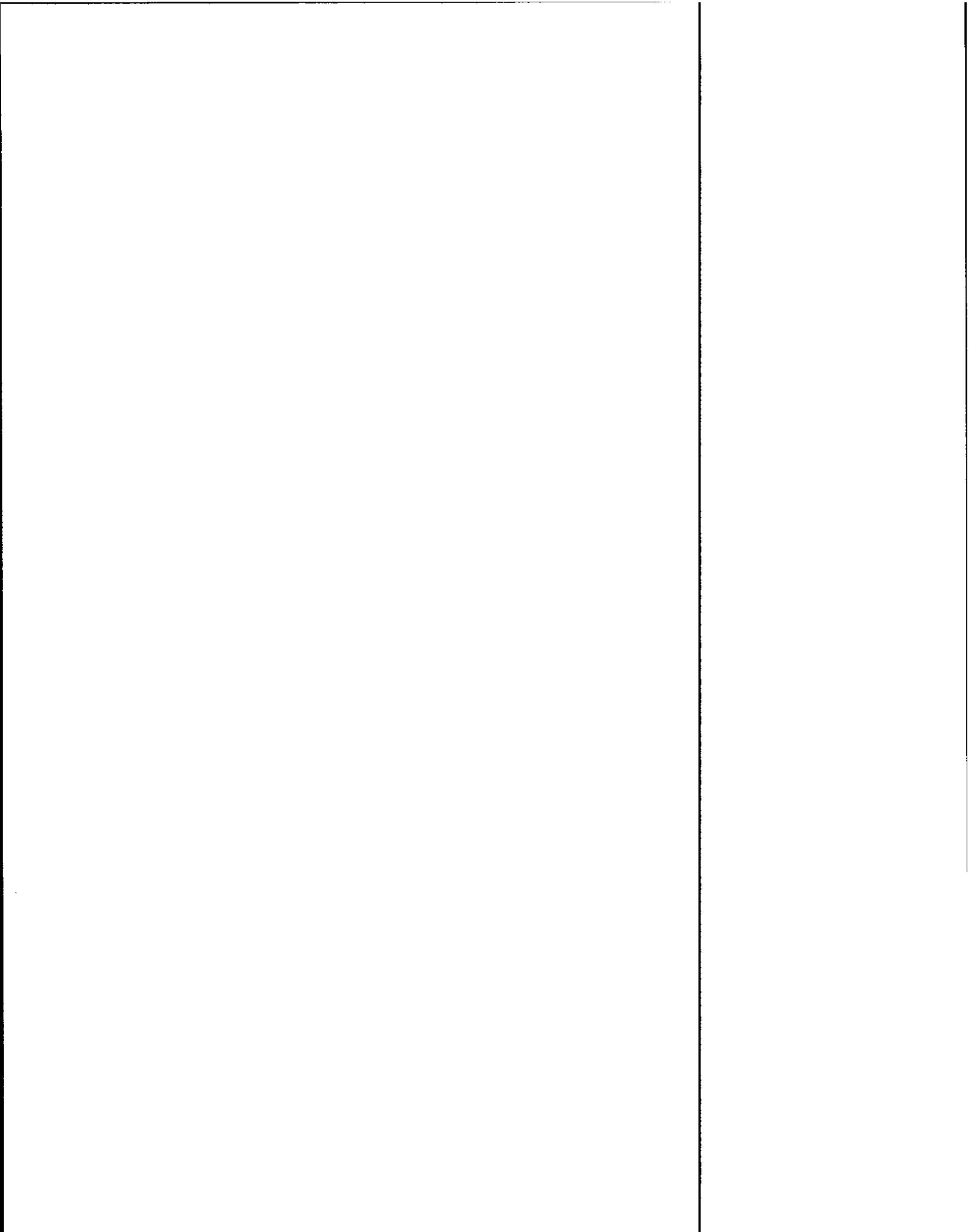
**CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER**

**WHEREAS** Sherry Gail Johnson is a credentialed social worker subject to the jurisdiction and rules and regulations of the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners (the Board); and

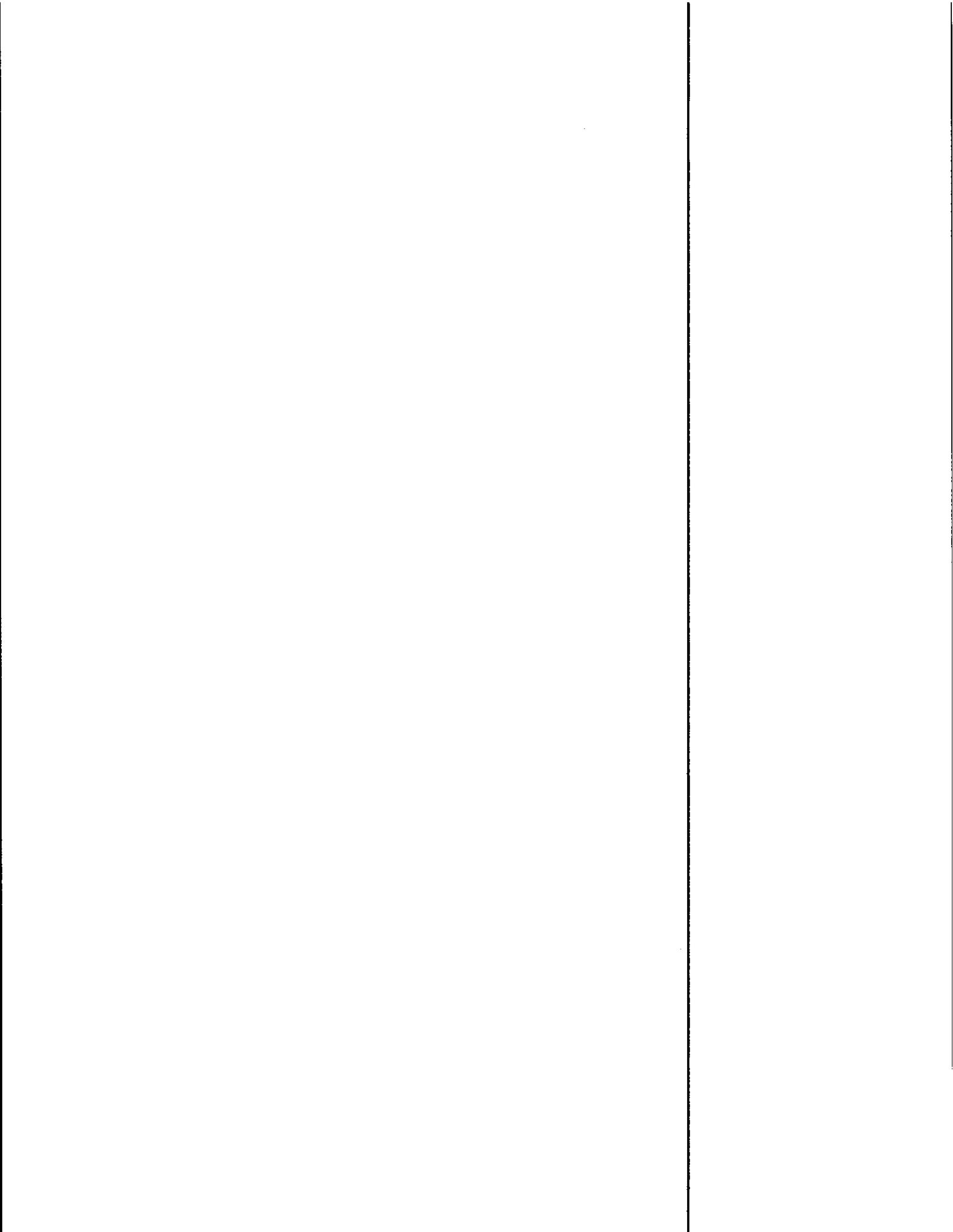
**WHEREAS**, pursuant to a complaint and an administrative investigation, the social worker, Sherry Gail Johnson, has indicated her desire to resolve this matter through a Consent Agreement and Order as provided for in Rule No. 907 of the Board's Rules, Standards and Procedures and LA R.S. 49:955(D) of the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the social worker, Sherry Gail Johnson, has admitted the following:

1. Sherry Gail Johnson is and at all times pertinent to the facts and matters alleged herein, a GSW certified by the Board to engage in the practice of social work in the State of Louisiana pursuant to the Social Work Practice Act, LA R.S. 37:2701 et seq., as evidenced by License No. 5324.
2. At all times pertinent hereto, Sherry Gail Johnson was actively engaged in the practice of social work as an employee of Avoyelles Parish Correctional Facility, Cottonport, Louisiana.



3. That beginning in 2005, Sherry Gail Johnson, was employed as a social worker and provided therapy to inmates at the facility.
4. That between November 2005 and November 2007 Sherry Gail Johnson was involved in a personal relationship with a client, who was an inmate at the correctional facility.
5. That evidence obtained during the investigation documents that Sherry Gail Johnson provided a cell phone to the inmate and gave instructions for the activation of the cell phone even though inmates and staff are strictly prohibited from possessing cell phones inside the facility.
6. That evidence obtained during the investigation indicates that Sherry Gail Johnson used several aliases to avoid detection in her efforts to communicate with the inmate.
7. That Sherry Gail Johnson admitted to Don Evans, Complaint Investigation Officer, on March 26, 2008, that she provided the identified inmate with a mp3 player as a gift.
8. That Sherry Gail Johnson admitted to Don Evans, Complaint Investigation Officer, on March 26, 2008, that she had knowledge that the inmate faked symptoms to visit her as a patient. Ms. Johnson admits that she did not report the incident or the inmate's advances.
9. That Sherry Gail Johnson, in the course of developing an improper relationship with her client, inappropriately disclosed certain aspects of her personal life.

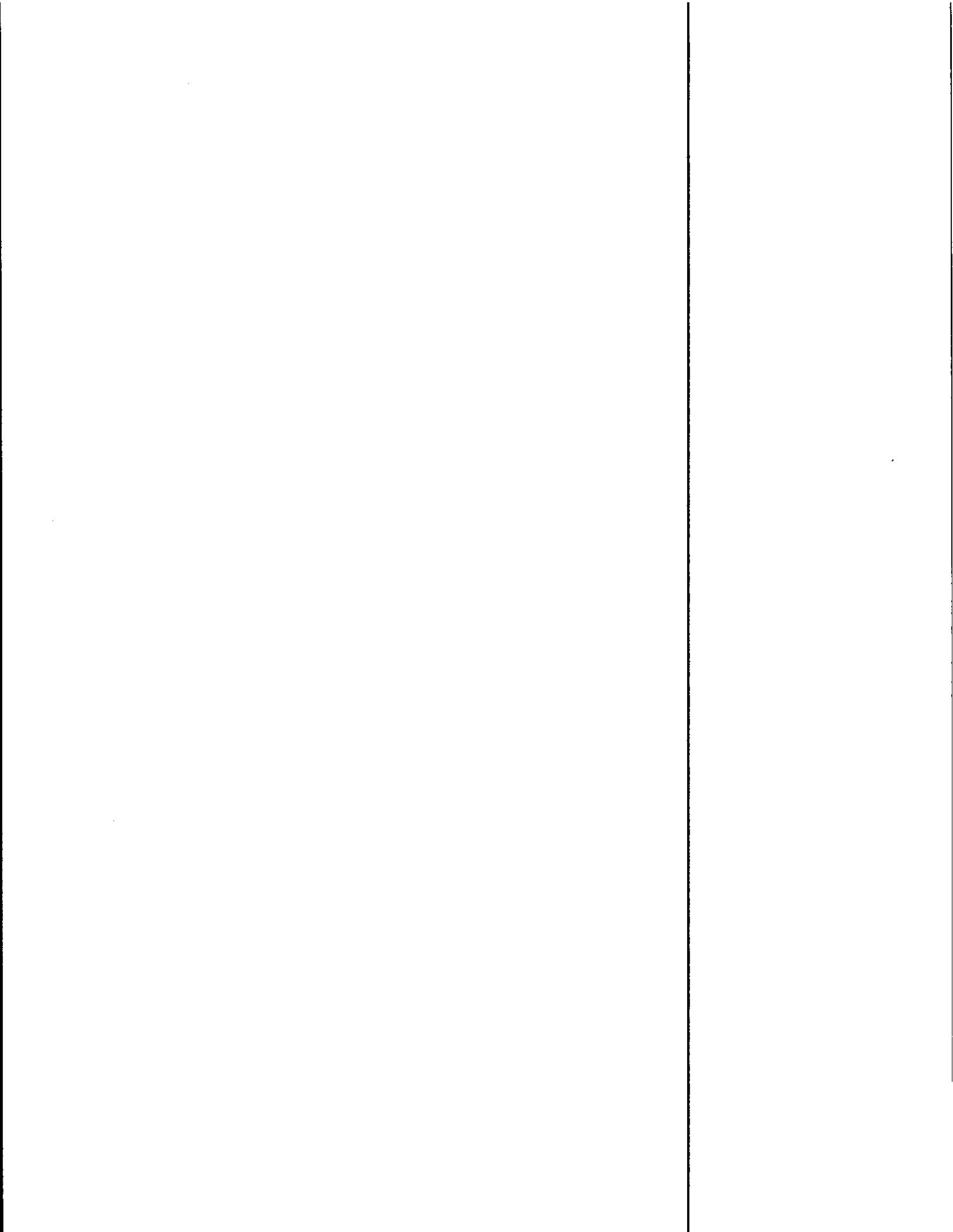


**WHEREAS**, by inappropriately disclosing aspects of her life, Sherry Gail Johnson violated her professional and ethical duty that a social worker shall not exploit a client to promote or advance the social worker's emotional...needs, as set forth in Rule 113(A)(1) of the Rules, Standards and Procedures for Louisiana social workers, which failure does constitute unethical conduct and pursuant to Rule 105 is a violation of LA R.S. 37:2717(A)(5), LA R.S. 37:2717(A)(7) and LA R.S. 37:2717(A)(11) of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act.

**WHEREAS**, by giving the incarcerated client a cellphone and mp3 player, Sherry Gail Johnson violated her professional and ethical duty that a social worker shall not give or exchange inappropriate gifts...between the social worker and the client..., as set out in Rule 113(A)(7) of the Rules, Standards and Procedures for Louisiana social workers, which failure does constitute unethical conduct and pursuant to Rule 105 is a violation of LA R.S. 37:2717(A)(5) of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act.

**WHEREAS**, by entering into a personal relationship with a client, Sherry Gail Johnson violated her professional and ethical duty that a social worker shall not engage in a personal relationship with a clinical/therapeutic clients as set out in Rule 113(B)(1) of the Rules, Standards and Procedures for Louisiana social workers, which action does constitute unethical conduct and pursuant to Rule 105 is a violation of LA R.S. 37:2717(A)(5) of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act.

**WHEREAS**, by not reporting the inmate's advances or that the inmate faked symptoms in order to visit Sherry Gail Johnson as a patient, Ms. Johnson



violated her professional and ethical duty that a social worker shall not encourage planned social meetings or contacts as set for in Rule 113(A)(5) of the Rules, Standards and Procedures for Louisiana social workers, which action does constitute unethical conduct and pursuant to Rule 105 is a violation of LA R.S. 37:2717(A)(5) and LA R.S. 37:2717(A)(11) of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act.

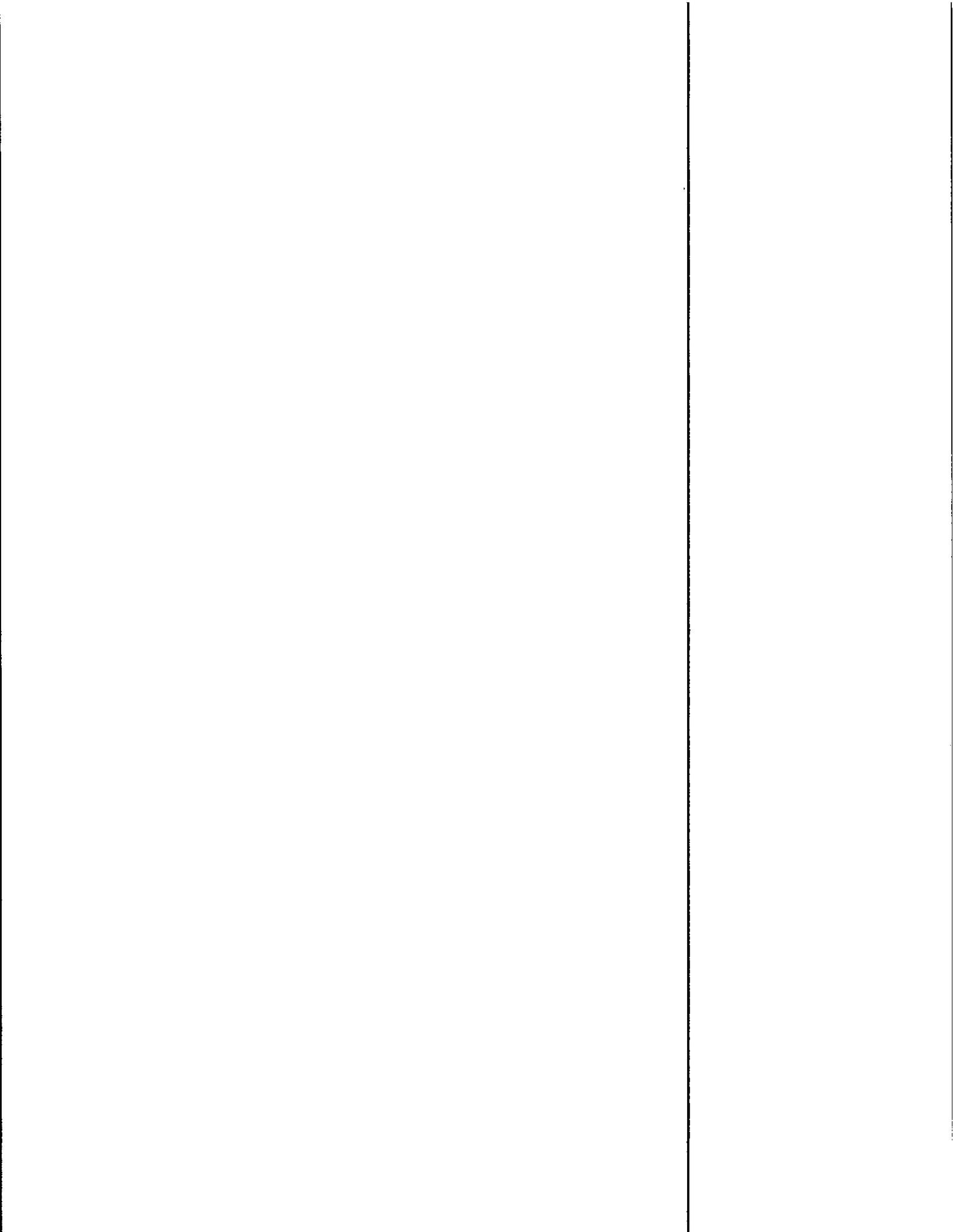
**WHEREAS**, by not reporting the inmate's advances or that the inmate faked symptoms in order to visit Sherry Gail Johnson as a patient, Ms. Johnson violated her professional and ethical duty that a social worker shall be solely responsible for acting appropriately in regard to relationships with clients as set forth in Rule 113(B)(9) of the Rules, Standards and Procedures for Louisiana social workers, which action does constitute unethical conduct and pursuant to Rule 105 is a violation of LA R.S. 37:2717(A)(5) and LA R.S. 37:2717(A)(11) of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act.

**WHEREAS**, the undersigned Assistant Attorney General has conducted an interview with the respondent who has indicated her desire to resolve this matter through a Consent Agreement and Order.

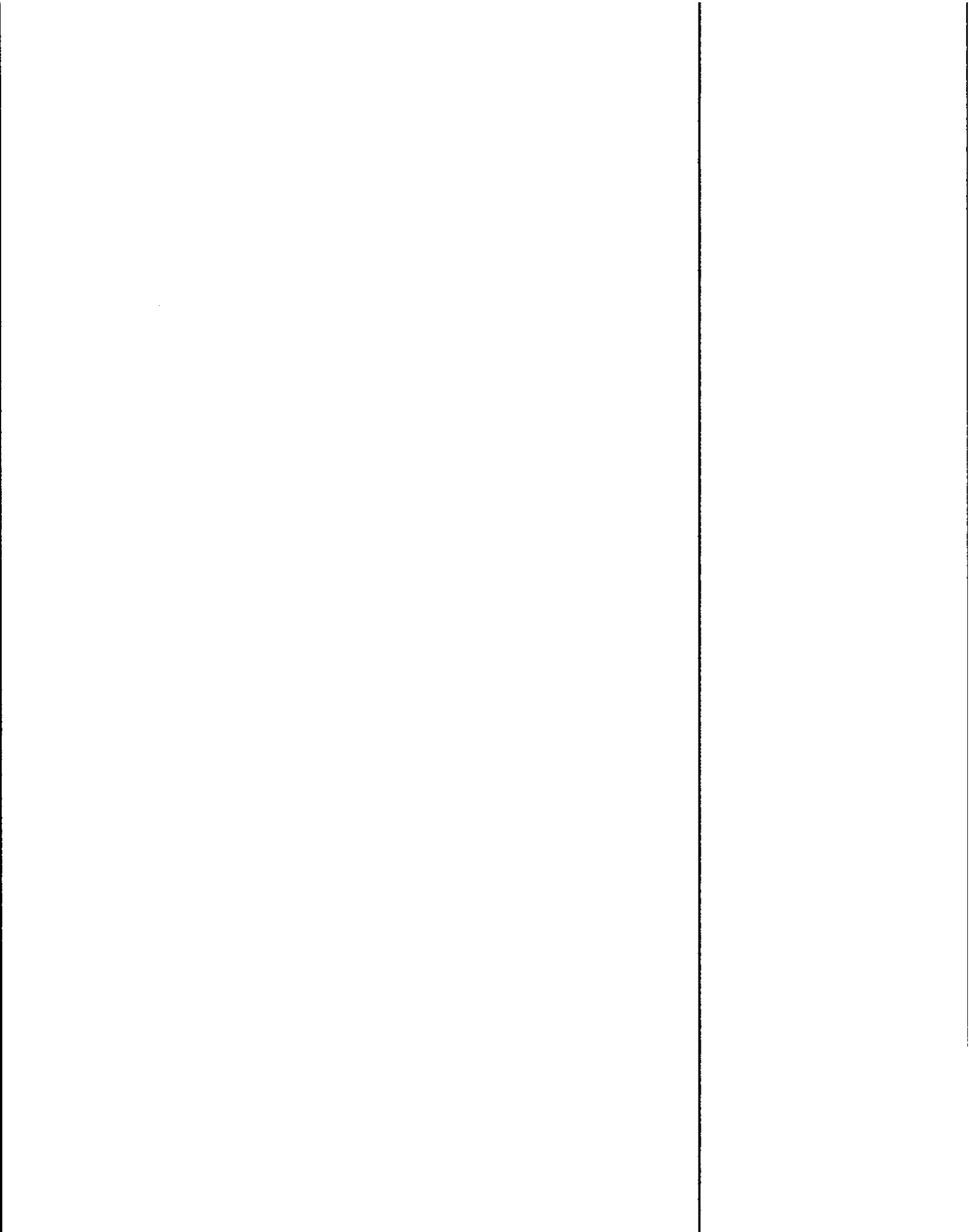
**WHEREAS**, the credentialed social worker has indicated her desire to resolve this matter through a Consent Agreement and Order;

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that in consideration of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by LA R.S. 49:955(D), the Board orders and Sherry Gail Johnson accepts the following administrative action which is a final decision pursuant to the LA R.S. 49:958:

Consent Order: LABSWE 2008-176



1. Sherry Gail Johnson shall be suspended from performing social work in the State of Louisiana for a period of not less than 60 days effective from the date all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order.
2. Sherry Gail Johnson shall be placed on probation for two (2) years from the date the suspension is lifted.
3. Sherry Gail Johnson shall complete two (2) years of two (2) hours per month of face-to-face supervision by a LCSW pre-approved by the Board. The supervisor shall not be someone that Ms. Johnson has had a prior or current personal or professional relationship. The supervisor shall submit quarterly supervision reports documenting dates met for supervision, topics addressed and progress made in supervision. The supervisor is to make recommendation for termination at the end of two years. Furthermore, the supervisor is to be in communication with Sherry Gail Johnson's employer. Ms. Johnson is responsible for all costs associated with supervision. This supervision will not be accepted towards meeting the requirements to apply for a license as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.
4. Under the direction and approval of her supervisor, Sherry Gail Johnson shall complete a minimum of five (5) hours of continuing education with specific emphasis on boundaries, dual relationships and exploitation each year that her practice is supervised in accordance with this Consent Agreement and Order. These hours are in addition to the continuing education required to renew her social work credential. Documentation of

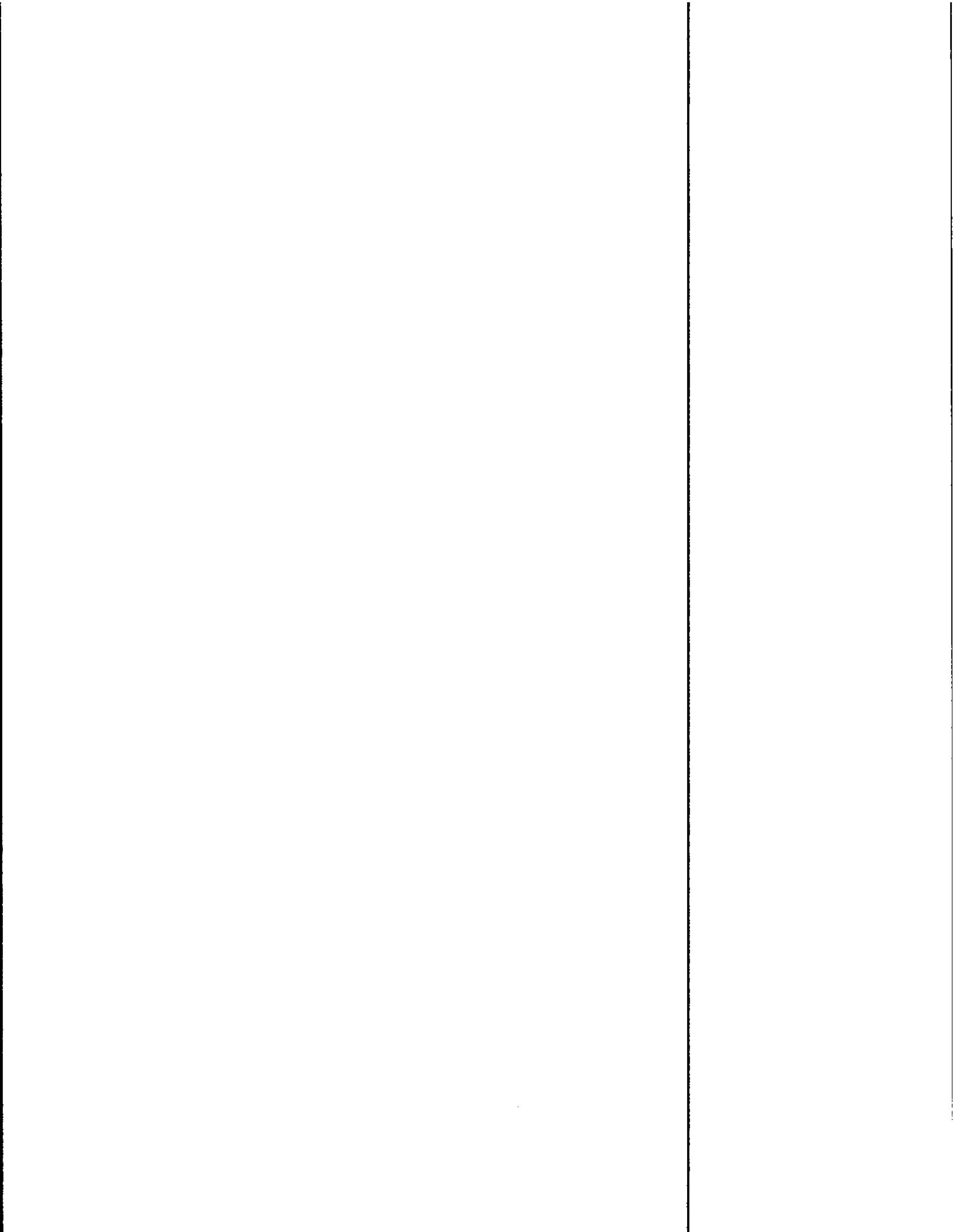


completing the educational offering must be submitted to the Board within 30 days of completion.

5. Sherry Gail Johnson shall take and pass the Board's open book examination on the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act and the Rules, Standards and Procedures within ninety (90) days of the date all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order. Ms. Johnson shall incur the cost of the open book exam.
6. Sherry Gail Johnson shall pay the costs of investigation in the amount of \$1,335.00 within one (1) year of the date all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order. Payments of \$333.75 shall be made quarterly. There shall be no pre-payment penalty.
7. Sherry Gail Johnson specifically acknowledges that failure to comply with the terms of the Consent Agreement and Order may result in a suspension or revocation of her license. The admissions contained herein, will be considered proven and the only issue will be failure to follow the terms of the Consent Agreement and Order.

**THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER** is a matter of public record for violation of the above referenced sections of the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act and the Rules, Standards and Procedures. The terms of this Consent Agreement and Order may be published and reported, including but not limited to, the LABSWE Newsletter.

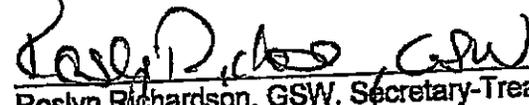
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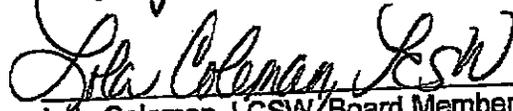


IN WITNESS THEREOF, the Louisiana State Board of Social Work  
Examiners has entered into this Consent Agreement and Order and executed  
same at Baton Rouge, Louisiana on this the 25th day of July, 2008.

  
Wade Tyler, LCSW, Chairperson

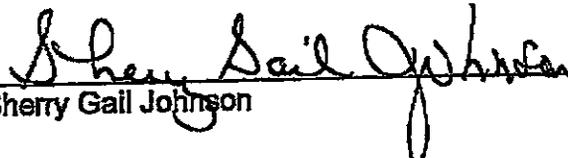
  
Michael Hickerson, RSW, Vice Chairperson

  
Roslyn Richardson, GSW, Secretary-Treasurer

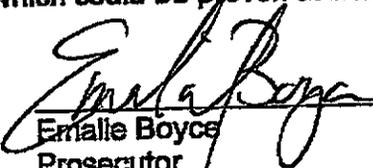
  
Lola Coleman, LCSW, Board Member

  
Jacqueline Shellington, LCSW, Board Member

I, Sherry Gail Johnson, GSW, make these acknowledgments and waivers in support of a final disposition of the pending investigation of Complaint #2008-176 by Consent Agreement and Order (Order) pursuant to LA. R.S. §49:955 D, in lieu of the institution and prosecution of formal administrative proceedings, and accordingly consent to the entirety of the Order set forth hereinbefore and further waive any right to which I may be entitled under the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act or any other law to contest, in any court, my agreement to this Order. By my subscription hereto, I also hereby authorize Jacqueline Shellington, designated by the Board with respect hereto, as well as the legal counsel assisting her, to present this Order to the Board for its consideration and to fully disclose to and discuss with the Board the nature and results of the investigation of this matter. I herein waive any objection to such disclosure based on due process of law under either the State or Federal Constitution or under State statutory law, including LA.R.S. §49:960. I expressly acknowledge that the disclosure of such information to the Board by Jacqueline Shellington or her legal counsel shall be without prejudice to the Assistant Attorney General's authority to file a formal Administrative Complaint, or the Board's capacity to adjudicate such Administrative Complaint, should the Board decline to approve this Consent Agreement and Order. I further acknowledge my awareness that should the Board approve this Consent Agreement and Order that the Order will become a matter of public record.

  
Sherry Gail Johnson Date July 25, 2008

I, Emalie Boyce, Prosecutor, do hereby acknowledge negotiation and preparation of this Consent Agreement and Order in order to resolve, with prejudice, all matters for which the social worker, Sherry Gail Johnson, could be charged under Complaint No. 2008-176; and further certify that this Consent Agreement and Order is consistent with the evidence, adequately addresses the complaint and represents a true and correct statement of that which could be proven at a hearing of this matter.

  
Emalie Boyce Date July 25, 2008 EMB  
Prosecutor

