

**BEFORE THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS BOARD
OF THE STATE OF IOWA**

<p>IN THE MATTER OF</p> <p>TRISHA TONELLI License No. 072721</p> <p>RESPONDENT</p>	<p>CASE NO.: 23-0072</p> <p>COMBINED STATEMENT OF CHARGES, SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT, AND FINAL ORDER</p>
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COME NOW the Iowa Board of Behavioral Health Professionals (“Board”) and Trisha Tonelli (“Respondent”), and enter into this combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement and Final Order (“Order”) pursuant to Iowa Code sections 17A.10(2), 272C.3(4), and 272C.10 and Iowa Administrative Code rule 481—506.33.

A. BACKGROUND

1. **Iowa License.** Respondent was issued Iowa mental health temporary license 072721 on May 24, 2018. Respondent’s Iowa mental health temporary license is active and will next expire on September 30, 2026.
2. **Practice Setting.** Respondent is an Iowa temporary licensed mental health counselor who practiced mental health counseling in Des Moines, Iowa, during the time period relevant to these allegations. Respondent currently lives in the State of Iowa.
3. **Jurisdiction.** The Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 154D.
4. **Allegations.** In January of 2023, Respondent disclosed confidential information related to care of her client CC.

B. STATEMENT OF CHARGES

COUNT I

5. Respondent is charged under Iowa Administrative Code rule 481-893.1(1) with failing to comply with the American Counseling Association's Code of Ethics, specifically Section B.2.a.

C. SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

6. Respondent acknowledges that the allegations stated above, if proven in a contested case hearing, would constitute grounds for the discipline agreed to in this Order.

7. To resolve this matter without proceeding to hearing, Respondent agrees to the following conditions:

- a. Respondent is CITED for her conduct in violation of Iowa Administrative Code Rule 481-893.1(1) and WARNED that commission of this conduct in the future could result in further discipline from the Board; and
 - b. Respondent shall complete six (6) hours of continuing education in the area of ethics and confidentiality.
8. In entering this Order, Respondent acknowledges the following:
- a. This Order is subject to the approval of the Board and will have no force or effect if it is not accepted by the Board.
 - b. Counsel for the State will present this Order to the Board *ex parte*.
 - c. I have the right to be represented by counsel in this matter.
 - d. I understand I have an opportunity to be heard and to contest the allegations against me in a formal hearing before the Board and that, by waiving the formal hearing, I waive my right to challenge the allegations against me and all attendant rights, including the right to seek judicial review of the Board's actions.
 - e. I waive my ability to review the investigative file in this case.
 - f. I understand this Order will be part of my permanent licensure file and may be

considered by the Board in determining the nature and severity of any disciplinary action to be imposed in the event of any future violations.

g. I am voluntarily entering into this Order.

h. Failure to comply with the provisions of this Order shall be grounds for further disciplinary action pursuant to Iowa Code § 272C.3(2)(a).

i. I understand the Board is required by federal law to report this Order to the National Practitioner Databank. The report to the database will reflect the language included in this Order.

j. I understand I am responsible for all expenses incurred to comply with the conditions and requirements of this Order.

12. Respondent shall submit a copy of this Order to all licensing boards where Respondent holds a license, whether active or not, within **THIRTY DAYS** of the date of the Board approval of this Order.

13. This Order constitutes discipline against Respondent and is the final agency action in a contested case pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.10.

14. This Order shall not preclude the Board from taking additional action against Respondent should Respondent violate laws, rules, or standards of practice administered by the Board in the future.

15. This Order becomes a public record available for inspection and copying upon execution in accordance with the requirements of Iowa Code Chapters 17A, 22, and 272C.

16. The Board's approval of this Order shall constitute a **Final Order** of the Board.

D. FINAL ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

- a. **CITATION AND WARNING:** Respondent is hereby **CITED** for in violation of Iowa Administrative Code Rule 481-893.1(1). Respondent is hereby **WARNED** that engaging in such conduct in the future may result in further disciplinary action against Respondent's Iowa temporary mental health counseling license license.
- b. **CONTINUING EDUCATION.** Respondent shall complete six (6) hours of continuing education in the area of ethics and confidentiality.

FOR THE RESPONDENT:

Voluntarily agreed to and accepted by Trisha Tonelli on this 6th day of May , 2025.

Trisha Tonelli L.M.H.C.
By: Trisha Tonelli, Respondent

FOR THE IOWA BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS:

Voluntarily agreed to and accepted by the **IOWA BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS** on this 27th day of May, 2025.

Aaron L Culley, L.I.S.W.

Aaron Culley, Chairperson
Iowa Board of Behavioral Health Professionals