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August 31, 2020

Louisiana Ethics Administration Program
P.O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821
Attn: Ms. Suzanne Mooney, Staff Attorney

Dear Ms. Mooney and Ethics Board Members,

I have been employed with the 22nd Judicial District Court (with St. Tammany Parish Government) for approximately 3 years as the Parenting Coordinator (PC) assigned to one of the two family court divisions. In June 2020, I was informed the 22nd JDC will terminate the provision of PC services for both of their two family court divisions. As a result, I was provided notice that my employment will end September 18, 2020. Effective September 21, 2020, the 22nd JDC will no longer offer or provide Parenting Coordination services for both of their family court divisions and I will no longer be employed by the 22nd JDC/St. Tammany Parish Government. I am seeking your guidance and clarification on the following:

1. Am I allowed, immediately following my termination date, to provide Parenting Coordination (PC) services to clients, privately and for profit, with whom I am currently providing same service through my employment as the 22nd JDC will no longer provide/offer this service? This would be on a voluntary basis for the parties (not court ordered), with a new agreement requiring each party's written consent; a list of other providers in the community who are qualified to provide PC services would be provided to the parties. The clients to whom I currently provide PC services are referred to me either through a consent order to appoint or through a direct appointment/referral through the court (22nd JDC).
2. Am I allowed, immediately following my termination date, to accept new referrals or appointments directly from the 22nd JDC via court order for the purpose of providing PC services (privately, for profit) OR am I required to wait a minimum amount of time despite the fact the position and services of PC will no longer be offered by my current employer (22nd JDC)? This would be for clients I had not previously worked as their PC.
3. Am I allowed, immediately following my termination date, to provide Parenting Coordination (PC) services to new clients (Individuals I had not previously worked with in my current position) that are self-referred or referred through their legal counsel via consent of the parties (not referred via the 22nd JDC) as the 22nd JDC will no longer provide this service?

I have been in contact with Ms. Suzanne Mooney, staff attorney. I am requesting an expedited opinion in writing as to any ethical and/or legal considerations would be most helpful.

Respectfully,

Michelle Ludwigsen, MSW, LMSW
Michelle L. Ludwigsen, MSW, LMSW

CONFIDENTIAL FAX COVER SHEET

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TO: La Board of Ethics

FAX NUMBER: 225-381-7271

PHONE NUMBER: _____

SUBJECT/COMMENTS: Request for Opium attached for

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