

## STATE OF ARIZONA BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGIST EXAMINERS 1740 WEST ADAMS STREET, SUITE 3403 PHOENIX, AZ 85007

PH: 602.542.8162 FX: 602.542.8279

WEBSITE: <u>www.psychboard.az.gov</u>

KATIE HOBBS Governor HEIDI HERBST PAAKKONEN
Executive Director

Sent USPS Regular & Certified Mail #70212720000061790608 Also sent by email to:

November 8, 2023

Jennifer R. Fowler, Psy.D.

**RE: NOTICE OF DENIAL OF RENEWAL APPLICATION** 

Dear Dr. Fowler:

At a public meeting held on November 3, 2023, the Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners ("Board"), considered your application for renewal of your licensure as a psychologist as well as the resolution of complaint no. 23-45. Despite having been noticed, you did not appear. After having considered all of the evidence, the Board voted to adjudicate complaint no. 23-45 and your application for renewal by voting to deny the same.

The factual basis for the denial of your application includes:

- 1. Your license, license no. PSY-005217 for the practice of psychology in the State of Arizona expired on 5/31/2023. You submitted an application for renewal on 8/18/2023.
- 2. In December of 2022, you requested admission to the Board's Rehabilitation and Monitoring Program ("RAMP") for the purpose of receiving confidential mental health treatment. RAMP, authorized by A.R.S. §32-2086 and A.R.S. §32-3223, is a confidential rehabilitation treatment and monitoring program for psychologists who self-report to the Board a chemical dependency, or a mental health disorder that may impact their ability to safely practice.
- 3. You were admitted to RAMP on or about December 12, 2022.
- 4. The RAMP's compliance terms were established in a Stipulated Confidential Rehabilitation Agreement ("SCRA"). Under the terms of the SCRA, you were required, in part, to enroll in a program that met Board criteria for random biological fluid testing and other testing as ordered. Additionally, the SCRA required that you cooperate with Board staff and the Board approved providers/program, including calling in daily to determine if you were required to test and to comply with all requests for testing.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> At the time of your request for admission to the RAMP, you did not disclose your history of abusing controlled substances. The fact was later learned by staff upon receiving the medical records from your hospitalization.

- 5. Additionally, the SCRA states "While this SCRA is not a disciplinary action, Participant acknowledges that any violation of the SCRA constitutes unprofessional conduct as defined in A.R.S. § 32-2061(16)(aa), and may result in disciplinary action, pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2086 and § 32-2081." You were further advised that violating the SCRA would convert this case to a matter of public record and would no longer be confidential.
- 6. You enrolled in the program administered by Gateway Recovery Institute ("Gateway").
- 7. On March 17, 2023, you inquired of Board staff whether you were required to submit to a hair test as had been ordered by Gateway on that same date. Board staff informed you that compliance with the program's requirements was mandatory. The program also notified you that failure to comply would be considered non-compliant.
- 8. On March 20, 2023, Gateway's Program Coordinator notified Board staff via email that you failed to submit to the hair screening test as ordered on March 17, 2023, nor did you complete the required daily check-in on March 20, 2023. The Program Coordinator confirmed that you had been discharged from the program as a result of your statement to the program that you were self-terminating your participation in the program.
- 9. On April 7, 2023, the Board considered your non-compliance with the SCRA and voted to open complaint no. 23-45 for your violation of the Board order. Specifically, you failed to submit to the hair test screening as ordered by the Board-approved monitoring program on March 17, 2023; you also failed to complete the daily check-in on March 20, 2023, and finally, you unilaterally terminated your participation with the Board-approved monitoring program and failed to obtain the services of another monitor.
- 10. Your license expired on 5/31/2023. You submitted your application for renewal on 8/18/2023. Pursuant to Arizona Administrative Code ("A.A.C.") R4-26-207(A), you were required to complete 40 hours of continuing education. According to the records you submitted to the Board, you were only able to demonstrate that you completed 34 of the required hours.

Given the foregoing, the Board voted to deny your application for licensure renewal based upon your failure to demonstrate that you meet the requirements as set forth in A.R.S. §32-2071.01(A)(3), specifically, that the applicant has a professional record that indicates that the applicant has not committed any act or engaged in any conduct that constitutes grounds for disciplinary action against a licensee.

The Board found that you committed the following violations constituting acts of unprofessional conduct: A.R.S. §32-2061(16)(k), which is violating any federal or state laws or rules that relate to the practice of psychology as it relates to A.A.C. R4-26-207(A) which requires a licensee to obtain at least 40 hours of continuing education during each license period; and A.R.S. §32-2061(16)(aa), which is violating a formal board order, consent agreement, term of probation or stipulated agreement.

NOTICE

Notice of Appealable Agency Action. Right to Hearing on Denial of Application for Re-Licensure

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-1092.03, you have the right to appeal the denial of application for

licensure by requesting a hearing. To obtain a hearing, you must submit a written request for a

hearing to the Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners, 1740 West Adams St., Suite 3403,

Phoenix, Arizona, 85007. Pursuant to A.R.S. §41-1092.03(B) the request for hearing must be

received at the Board's office within thirty-five (35) calendar days of the date of this Order. The

request must state your name, your address, the action being appealed (denial of licensure), and

must contain a concise statement of the reasons for the appeal. The hearing will be held within

sixty (60) calendar days after the Board receives your request for hearing (A.R.S. § 41-1092.05(A))

At the hearing, you will have the burden of proof to demonstrate that you are qualified for re-

licensure regarding the matters set forth in this Order of Denial of Application for Renewal of

License. The Office of the Attorney General will represent the State of Arizona at the hearing.

Please contact me if you have questions: <a href="mailto:heidi.paakkonen@psychboard.az.gov">heidi.paakkonen@psychboard.az.gov</a> or 602-542-3018.

Sincerely,

Heidi Herbst Paakkonen, MPA

Hudi Horlot Paastonin

**Executive Director** 

Sent to address of record to:

Jennifer Fowler, Psy.D.

Sent interagency mail to:

Jeanne Galvin, Assistant Attorney General

3