

1 **BEFORE THE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGIST EXAMINERS**

2 **FOR THE STATE OF ARIZONA**

3 **In the Matter of:**

4 **Blake Harding, Ed.D., Ph.D.**

5 **Applicant for Telehealth Registry**
6 **pursuant to A.R.S. §36-3606 in the State**
7 **of Arizona**

8 **Applicant**

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) **CEASE AND DESIST ORDER**
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9 On January 12, 2024, the Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners (“Board”) met in
10 open session for the purposes of reviewing the Telehealth Registry application submitted by
11 Blake Harding ("Applicant") and information obtained by Board staff pursuant to its review of
12 the application. Applicant appeared virtually and on his own behalf.

13 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

14 1. Applicant has never held a license with the Board to practice psychology in the
15 State of Arizona.

16 2. A.R.S. § 36-3606 provides that a healthcare provider who is not licensed in this
17 state may provide telehealth services to a person located in Arizona if the provider is licensed at
18 the same practice level in another state and meets other conditions set forth in the statute. Those
19 requirements include but are not limited to, providing proof of their professional licensure,
20 proof of professional liability insurance, and designation of a duly appointed statutory agent for
21 service of process in the state. An individual who is registered pursuant to A.R.S. §36-3606 to
22 provide telehealth services in this state may not open an office in this state, except as part of a
23 multistate provider group.

24 3. In November of 2023, the Board received Applicant’s Telehealth Registry
25 Application.

26 4. At its public meeting on January 12, 2024, the Board reviewed Applicant’s
27 Telehealth Registry application and related documentation. The Board’s review of the
28 application revealed the following:

- 1 a. Applicant does not hold a current, valid and unrestricted psychologist license
2 in any other state that is substantially similar and would allow him to practice
3 at the independent level
- 4 b. Applicant provided an address in Tucson, Arizona as his primary address on
5 the telehealth registration application. The same Tucson, Arizona address
6 appears on Applicant's National Practitioner Data Bank self-query report,
7 and another Tucson, Arizona address appears on additional documentation
8 Applicant submitted in support of his application (*e.g.* a receipt relating to
9 professional liability insurance.) However, his professional website, his entry
10 on psychologytoday.com and his multiple LLCs all indicate Washington
11 State and Arizona practice addresses.
- 12 c. Applicant has three active entities listed in the Arizona Corporation
13 Commission's public online database: Be Change Partners, LLC (formation
14 date 05/06/2017), Dr. Blake Harding, PLC (formation date 08/01/2022), and
15 Mysa, LLC (formation date 07/31/2020). All three have Tucson, Arizona
16 addresses. In the Articles of Organization for Dr. Blake Harding, PLC, the
17 character of business is listed as, "Health Care and Social Assistance".
- 18 d. Applicant maintained two websites, blakeharding.com and
19 drblakeharding.com. The most recent appears to be drblakeharding.com, in
20 which the following information was captured by Board staff in December
21 of 2023:
- 22 ■ On the Home page, the main header states, "Dr. Blake Harding / Child,
23 Adolescent and Adult Psychologist." The first paragraph states, "I am Dr.
24 Blake Harding, a child, adolescent and adult psychologist and counselor. I
25 offer therapy, evaluations, coaching and consulting."
 - 26 ■ On the Appointments page, Applicant lists "Telehealth, WA", and the
27 primary address as "Tucson / 2828 N. Country Club Rd / Tucson, AZ
28 85716" with the linked text, "Directions" to Google Maps for this address.
 - On the Specialties page, several references are made by Applicant

1 regarding his practice and being a clinical psychologist, as well as
2 providing psychotherapy.

3 ■ Also on the Specialties Page, Applicant states that he practices under
4 “applicable provisions such as Psypact....” A search of PSYPACT’s online
5 verification system demonstrates that Applicant does not hold an
6 authorization with PSYPACT to practice either via telehealth (APIT) or in-
7 person temporary practice (TAP).

8 ■ Furthermore, Respondent states he practices under “Arizona Revised
9 Statutes (A.R.S.) § 32-3271 and & 20-1057.13...”. However, these statutes
10 do not authorize the practice of psychology in Arizona. Respondent
11 represented to the Board in a letter dated December 27, 2023 that A.R.S.
12 32-2075 establishes a “permissible licensure exemption”. Respondent has
13 not demonstrated to the Board that he qualifies for any exemption
14 identified in the statute.

15 e. On Applicant’s psychologytoday.com profile, he lists practice addresses in
16 Tucson, Arizona and Seattle, Washington. He lists twenty-one areas of
17 expertise and twenty-five types of therapy he offers.

18 5. At the conclusion of its consideration of the matter, the Board voted, in part, to
19 issue Applicant a Cease and Desist Order finding that he is holding himself out as a practicing
20 psychologist in the State of Arizona or eligible to be a practicing psychologist in the State of
21 Arizona; that he is using the designation “psychology”, “psychological” or “psychologist” and
22 is using any combination of words, symbols, initials that may lead the public to believe that he
23 is licensed to practice psychology in the state of Arizona.

24 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

25 Applicant’s conduct as set forth above constitutes a violation of A.R.S. § 32-2084,
26 which provides, in part, that it is a class 2 misdemeanor for a person not licensed to:


- 27 a. (C)(1): Use the designation "psychology", "psychological" or "psychologist";
28 b. (C)(2): Use any combination of words, initials and symbols that leads the public to
believe the person is licensed to practice psychology in this state.

ORDER

Under the authority set forth in A.R.S. § 32-3227(C), the Board orders Applicant to immediately Cease and Desist from practicing psychology in the State of Arizona or holding himself out as a psychologist in the State of Arizona until such time he is licensed to do so. If Applicant continues to engage in such activity in violation of the Board’s statutes and rules, the Board may pursue injunctive relief pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2083.

DATED this 24 day of January, 2024.

ARIZONA BOARD OF
PSYCHOLOGIST EXAMINERS

By: 
Heidi Herbst Paakkonen
Executive Director

ORIGINAL filed electronically
this 24 day of January 2024, with:

The Arizona State Board of Psychologist Examiners
1740 West Adams St., Suite 3403
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

COPY of the foregoing sent by electronic mail, regular USPS mail, and certified USPS mail
70212720000061826895
this 24 day of January 2024 to:

Blake Harding, Ed.D., Ph.D.
Address on Record / Email Address on Record
Applicant

COPY of the foregoing via email (jeanne.galvin@azag.gov)
this 24 day of January 2024, to:

Jeanne M. Galvin
Assistant Attorney General
2005 North Central Ave. SGD/LES
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By: 
#11840496