

1 **BEFORE THE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGIST EXAMINERS**
2 **FOR THE STATE OF ARIZONA**

3 **IN THE MATTER OF:**

Case No: 25-41

4 **NATALIE TORRES, BCBA, M.A.**

**INTERIM FINDINGS OF FACT,
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND
ORDER FOR SUMMARY
SUSPENSION OF LICENSE**

5 **Holder of License No. BEH-001262**
6 **for the Practice of Behavior Analysis**
7 **in the State of Arizona,**

8 **Respondent.**

9
10 This matter came before the Arizona State Board of Psychologist Examiners
11 (“Board”) on March 7, 2025, at which time the Board convened and considered the possible
12 summary suspension of Natalie Torres’ (“Respondent”) license to practice as a behavior
13 analyst in the State of Arizona. Respondent was properly noticed but did not appear. After
14 reviewing relevant information and deliberating, the Board considered proceedings for a
15 summary suspension action against Respondent’s license. Having considered the
16 information in the matter and being fully advised, the Board enters the following Interim
17 Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order for Summary Suspension of License no.
18 BEH-001262, pending formal hearing.

19 **INTERIM FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 20 1. Respondent is a licensed behavior analyst in the State of Arizona, license no. BEH-
21 001262. She was issued her license by the Board on September 1, 2023.
- 22 2. On November 11, 2024, Respondent began working as a BCBA for Arizona Autism
23 (“Agency”) at their clinic in Tucson, Arizona.
- 24 3. On February 20, 2025, the Board received a complaint from Agency’s ABA
25 Director (“KD”), a licensed behavior analyst, asserting that Respondent’s employment was
26 terminated on February 11, 2025, for illegal drug use; specifically, cocaine.

1 4. According to the complaint, in late January 2025, it was reported to KD that
2 Respondent was falling asleep during her supervision of her client. KD met with
3 Respondent who reported that she was not aware of falling asleep, was not tired, and had
4 no medical issues of concern.

5 5. On February 6, 2025, KD travelled to the clinic and met with Respondent and other
6 clinical staff. During this meeting, Respondent was observed to be falling asleep.
7 Respondent again denied being tired, but Human Resources and Management transported
8 Respondent to a facility to undergo a urine drug test.

9 6. On February 11, 2025, Respondent's drug test was received by the Agency's HR
10 department and revealed that Respondent tested positive for cocaine.

11 7. That same day, Respondent was terminated from the Agency for violation of their
12 policy against drug use.

13 8. During an interview with Board staff, Respondent stated that she does not use any
14 illegal drugs, including cocaine and she does not understand how the urine drug screen was
15 positive for cocaine. Respondent did suggest that maybe the test results were positive for
16 cocaine as she recently traveled to Las Vegas and went to several bars and consumed
17 alcohol. She hypothesized that maybe something happened to one of her drinks.

18 9. During the interview, Respondent acknowledged that she has obtained employment
19 with another behavior analytic agency and will start her BCBA position on Mach 17, 2025.

20 10. At the conclusion of the interview, Board staff requested Respondent to submit to
21 a hair test to test for substances. On February 24, 2025, Respondent submitted to a 10-panel
22 hair test at ARCpoint Labs in Tucson, Arizona.

23 11. On February 28, 2025, the Board received the hair test results, which were positive
24 for cocaine.

25 12. The Board finds that Respondent's conduct as set forth above, jeopardizes the
26 public health, safety and welfare and requires emergency action. A.R.S. §32-2091.09(E).

1 **INTERIM CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

2 The Board has personal and subject matter jurisdiction in this case under A.R.S. §
3 32-2091 *et seq.*, and is authorized pursuant to A.R.S. §32-2091.09(E) to summarily
4 suspend any license based on emergent conditions and circumstances.

5 1. The conduct and circumstances alleged in the Interim Findings of Fact constitute
6 a violation of A.R.S. § 32-2091(12)(j) - Making a fraudulent or untrue statement to the
7 board or its investigators, staff or consultants;

8 2. The conduct and circumstances alleged in the Interim Findings of Fact constitute
9 a violation of A.R.S. § 32-2091(12)(l) - Practicing behavior analysis while impaired or
10 incapacitated to the extent and in a manner that jeopardizes the welfare of a client or renders
11 the services provided ineffective;

12 3. The conduct and circumstances alleged in the Interim Findings of Fact constitute
13 a violation of A.R.S. § 32-2091(12)(o) - Providing services that are unnecessary or unsafe
14 or otherwise engaging in activities as a behavior analyst that are unprofessional by current
15 standards of practice.

16 **FINDINGS OF EMERGENCY AND ORDER**

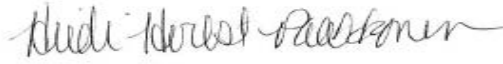
17 Based on the Interim Findings of Fact and the Interim Conclusions of Law as set
18 forth above, the Board finds that the public health, welfare and safety require emergency
19 action.

20 **NOW IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that License No. BEH-001262 issued to
21 Natalie Torres is hereby summarily suspended effective upon service of this Order.

22 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that such suspension shall remain in effect until the
23 conclusion of the formal hearing to be set in approximately thirty-five (35) days and a final
24 decision and order is issued by the Board.

1 DATED this 7 day of March, 2025.

2 ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF
3 PSYCHOLOGIST EXAMINERS

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5

Heidi Herbst Paakkonen
6 Executive Director

7 **ORIGINAL** filed electronically
8 this 7 day of March, 2025 with:

9 Arizona State Board of Psychologist Examiners
10 1740 W. Adams St., Suite 2430
11 Phoenix, Arizona 85007

12 **COPY** of the foregoing mailed by Certified Mail No. 70212720000061826970
13 and electronic mail this 7 day of March, 2025, to:

14 Natalie Torres, M.A., BCBA
15 Address on Record / Email Address on Record
16 Respondent

17 **COPY** of the foregoing via email (jeanne.galvin@azag.gov)
18 this 7 day of March, 2025, to:

19 Jeanne M. Galvin
20 Assistant Attorney General
21 2005 North Central Ave. SGD/LES
22 Phoenix, Arizona 85004
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25 By: 