1	BEFORE THE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGIST EXAMINERS	
2	FOR THE STATE OF ARIZONA	
3	TOR THE STATE OF MILEOTAL	
4	In the Matter of	Case No.: 15-31
5	William Arnett, Psy.D.	FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND
6 7	Holder of License No.3490 For the Practice of Psychology in the State of Arizona	CONSENT AGREEMENT
8		
9	In the interest of a prompt and speedy settlement of the above-captioned matter,	
10	consistent with the public interest, statutory requirements, and the responsibilities of the	
11	Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners ("Board"), the undersigned parties enter into	
12	this Consent Agreement as a final disposition of this matter.	
13	<u>JURISDICTION</u>	
14	1. The Board is the state agency authorized pursuant to Arizona Revised	
15	Statute ("A.R.S.") § 32-2061 et seq., and the rules promulgated thereunder in the	
16	Arizona Administrative Code ("A.A.C." or "rules") at R4-26-101 et seq., to regulate	
17	and control the licensing of psychologists in the State of Arizona.	
18	2. Licensee holds a license to practice as a psychologist in the State of	
19	Arizona, License number 3490, issued March 14, 2002, pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2071 et	
20	seq.	
21	3. The Board has personal a	nd subject-matter jurisdiction over Licensee
22	pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2061 et seq.	
23	CONSENT AGREEMENT	
24	Licensee understands and agrees that:	
25	4. The Board and Licensee enter into this Consent Agreement to promptly	
26	and judiciously resolve this matter, consistent with the public interest and the statutory	

27 requirements of the Board.

- 5. Licensee has the right to consult with an attorney before entering into this Consent Agreement.
- 6. Licensee has a right to a formal public hearing concerning this case where he could present evidence and cross-examine witnesses. Licensee irrevocably waives any right to such a hearing upon this Consent Agreement becoming effective.
- 7. Licensee irrevocably waives any right to rehearing or review or to any judicial review or any other appeal of this matter upon this Consent Agreement becoming effective.
- 8. The Consent Agreement shall be subject to the Board's approval and shall be effective only when signed by the Executive Director and accepted by the Board. In the event that the Board does not approve this Consent Agreement, it is withdrawn and shall be of no evidentiary value and shall not be relied upon nor introduced in any action by any party, except that the parties agree that if the Board rejects this Consent Agreement and this case proceeds to a formal hearing, Licensee shall assert no claim that the Board was prejudiced by its review and discussion of this document or any other records relating to this matter.
- 9. The Consent Agreement, once approved by the Board and signed by the Executive Director, shall constitute a public record that may be disseminated as a formal action of the Board and reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank.

## **FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 10. In the Fall of 2014, Licensee illegally purchased and obtained certain scheduled medications for his personal use, from an on-line supplier and without a prescription.
- 11. On November 25, 2014, federal and local law enforcement personnel executed a search warrant on Licensee's home and confiscated the medications that Licensee had obtained illegally.

- 12. On March 24, 2015, felony charges falling under A.R.S.§13-3407 were filed against Licensee, but Licensee was not served with the criminal indictment until mid-May. 2015.
- 13. On May 27, 2015, Licensee notified the Board that he had recently learned that he was "being charged with a felony."
- 14. These events transpired while Licensee was employed as an agency director for a rural Arizona tribal community ("Tribe") where he had oversight of the Tribe's mental health and substance abuse treatment programs. On May, 29, 2015, Licensee resigned from his clinical director position.
- 15. On January 26, 2016, after entering into a plea agreement, Licensee was found guilty of Possession of a Dangerous Drug (Methylphenidate), a designated class four (4) misdemeanor, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-3407(A)(I). The Court found Licensee to be eligible for probation and suspended the imposition of a sentence. Licensee was placed on unsupervised probation for one (1) year, and fined.
- 16. During the April 29, 2016, Informal Interview regarding this matter, Licensee and his attorney, Brett Rigg, Esq., were present at the proceedings and made a presentation to the Board. Licensee stated that he had moved to Florida and was on unsupervised probation for his legal matter. He further stated that he was not practicing psychology, but wanted to eventually resume work with the Native American community in Arizona, or for a Federal tribal program in another state. After discussion and deliberation, Board members voted to offer Licensee a Consent Agreement or to issue an Order to include certain terms.
- 17. In early November, 2016, the Board office received correspondence from Licensee that, on August 31, 2016, Licensee had entered into a contract with the Tribe to provide clinical and administrative services to Tribe's Mental Health and Diabetes Comorbid Treatment Program, and that that he had obtained the services of psychologist Eddie Lauritsen, Ph.D., to provide oversight over his work. This oversight

- 18. In late November, 2016, the Board office received correspondence from Licensee that, in consultation with Licensee's health care practitioner, he was no longer taking medication for his medical condition. Licensee's correspondence included August 27, 2015, through November 7, 2016, reports from his health care practitioner.
- 19. In December, 2016, the Board office received correspondence from Dr. Lauretsen, stating that he had been meeting regularly with Licensee since September 9, 2016, and provided a summary of his meetings with Licensee, which indicated that Licensee has been earnest, cooperative, and open to suggestions, is aware of his ongoing need to maintain a balance between his professional obligations and personal responsibilities, and is making commendable progress in this endeavor.
- 20. In January, 2017, and again in April, 2017, the Board office received updates from Licensee stating that he continues to work for Tribe's Mental Health and Diabetes Comorbid Treatment Program.

## **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

21. The conduct and circumstances described above constitutes unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. §32-2061(15)(i), commission of a felony, whether or not involving moral turpitude, or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude. In either case, conviction by a court of competent jurisdiction or a plea of no contest is conclusive evidence of the commission.

## <u>ORDER</u>

1. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2081(S) the Board has determined that the Licensee's conduct in Complaint No. 15-31 warrants disciplinary action. Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

- 2. **PROBATION:** Licensee's license as a psychologist is placed on probation for a minimum period of 12 months, beginning April 29, 2016, unless otherwise ordered by the Board.
- 3. <u>NOTIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT:</u> Licensee shall submit quarterly reports to the Board regarding the progress of his job search. When Licensee obtains employment, he must provide immediate notification to the Board as to the capacity of his employment.
- 4. <u>SUPERVISOR</u>: While on probation and after Licensee obtains employment in a setting requiring a license to practice psychology, Licensee shall receive face-to-face supervision from a behavioral health professional/supervisor for the purpose of providing support in his return to practice, and to assist Licensee in maintaining a balance between his professional duties and personal health.
- 5. Licensee shall meet with the behavioral health professional/supervisor at least twice per month. If Licensee is employed in a remote location, supervision may be provided face-to-face via electronic means. The behavioral health professional/supervisor shall submit quarterly reports to the Board.
- 6. Before Licensee's release from probation, the behavioral health professional/supervisor is to complete and submit a final written report to the Board summarizing his or her interaction with Licensee, topics discussed, areas of progress, matters of remaining concern, and overall impressions.
- 7. If, during the probation period, the Licensee's approved behavioral health professional/supervisor is unable or unwilling continue to provide supervision, Licensee shall submit the name and credentials of a proposed behavioral health professional/supervisor for Board approval.
- 8. <u>IN-PERSON APPEARANCE BEFORE THE BOARD</u>: After 12 months of probation, Licensee shall make an in-person appearance at a Board meeting to provide a status update, and discuss whether probation should be lifted or whether

further probation is warranted.

- 9. TERMINATION OF PROBATION: After a minimum of 12 months of probation, unless otherwise ordered by the Board, Licensee may petition the Board, in writing, and request termination from probation and supervision. If the Board determines that Licensee is in need of continued supervision, the Board may continue the probation, including supervision by a behavioral health professional/supervisor. If the Board determines that Licensee has not substantially complied with the requirements of this Consent Agreement, the Board may either (a) continue the probation, including supervision by a behavioral health professional/supervisor, or (b) institute proceedings for noncompliance with this Consent Agreement, which may result in the suspension, revocation, or other disciplinary or remedial action.
- date of this Consent Agreement and the termination of Licensee's probation by the Board, Licensee fails to renew his license while under this Consent Agreement and subsequently applies for a license, the remaining terms of this Consent Agreement, including probation and monitoring, shall be imposed if the application for licensure is granted.
- shall not become effective unless and until adopted by the Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners and executed on behalf of the Board. Any modification to this original document is ineffective and void unless mutually approved by the parties in writing. The effective date of this Consent Agreement is the date that it is signed by the Board's Executive Director, or her designee, on behalf of the Board.
- 12. <u>CONSIDERATION IN FUTURE ACTIONS</u>: Licensee understands that this Consent Agreement, or any part thereof, may be considered in any future disciplinary action against him.

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- 13. **FINAL RESOLUTION:** This Consent Agreement constitutes a final resolution of this disciplinary matter but does not constitute a dismissal or resolution of other matters currently pending before the Board, if any, and does not constitute any waiver, expressed or implied, of the Board's statutory authority or jurisdiction regarding any other pending or future investigations, actions, or proceedings. Further, this Consent Agreement does not preclude any other agency, subdivision, or officer of this State from instituting other civil or criminal proceedings with respect to the conduct that is the subject of this Consent Agreement.
  - 14. TIME: Time is of the essence with regard to this Consent Agreement.
- 15. <u>COSTS</u>: The Licensee shall be responsible for all costs incurred as a result of his compliance with this Consent Agreement.
- 16. NON-COMPLIANCE: If Licensee fails to comply with the terms of this Consent Agreement, the Board may properly institute proceedings for noncompliance, which may result in suspension, revocation, or other disciplinary or remedial actions. Violation of this Consent Agreement is a violation of A.R.S. § 32-2061(15)(aa) ("violating a formal board order, consent agreement, term of probation or stipulated agreement").
- 17. <u>PUBLIC RECORD</u>: This Consent Agreement is a public record that may be publicly disseminated as a formal action of the Board and reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank.

DATED THIS 15+ day of June, 2017.

ARIZONA BOARD OF

PSYCHOLOGIST EXAMINERS

William Arnett, Psy.D.

Licensee

By: \_\_\_

Cindy Olvey, Psy.D

**Executive Director** 

ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed			
this 1st day of June 2017, with:			
The Arizona State Board of Psychologist Examiners 1400 West Washington, Suite 240 Phoenix, Arizona 85007  COPY mailed by Certified Mail, No.			
			this and day of June 2017, to:
			William Arnett, Psy.D.
Address on Record			
COPY mailed delivered			
this and day of June 2017, to:			
Brett Rigg, Esq.			
377 E. White Mountain Blvd. Pinetop, AZ 85935  COPY of the foregoing mailed by interagency this and day of June 2017, to:			
		Jeanne M. Galvin	
		Office of the Arizona Attorney General	
SGD/LES    1275 W. Washington			
Phoenix, AZ 85007			
By:			