

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

3
4 In the Matter of:

5 Kristine Autry, Ed.D.

6 Holder of License No. 3748
7 for the Practice of Psychology
8 in the State of Arizona

Complaint No.: 16-49

**FINDINGS OF FACT,
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND
CONSENT AGREEMENT FOR
DECREE OF CENSURE**

9
10 On March 17, 2017, the Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners ("Board") discussed
11 Complaint No. 16-49 regarding Kristine Autry, Ph.D. ("Licensee"). Licensee was present at the
12 proceedings with her attorney, Faren Akins, Esq. After reviewing the information presented, the Board
13 voted to offer Licensee this Consent Agreement for a Decree of Censure.

14 **JURISDICTION**

15 1. The Board is the state agency authorized pursuant to Arizona Revised Statute
16 ("A.R.S.") §§ 32-2061 *et seq.*, and the rules promulgated thereunder, found in Arizona
17 Administrative Code ("A.A.C." or "rules") at R4-26-101 *et seq.*, to regulate and control the licensing
18 of psychologists in the State of Arizona.

19 2. Licensee holds a license to practice as a psychologist in the State of Arizona, License
20 number 3748, issued October, 31, 2005, pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2071 *et seq.*

21 3. The Board has personal and subject matter jurisdiction over Licensee pursuant to
22 A.R.S. §§ 32-2061 *et seq.*

23 **CONSENT AGREEMENT**

24
25 Licensee understands and agrees that:

26 4. The Board and Licensee enter into this Consent Agreement to promptly and judiciously
27 resolve this matter, consistent with the public interest and the statutory requirements of the Board.

5. The Board has jurisdiction over Licensee and the subject matter pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 32-2061 *et. seq.*

6. Licensee has the right to consult with an attorney prior to entering into this Consent Agreement.

7. Licensee has a right to a public hearing concerning this case. Licensee further acknowledges that at such formal hearing, she could present evidence and cross-examine witnesses. Licensee irrevocably waives any right to such a hearing.

8. Licensee irrevocably waives any right to rehearing or review or to any judicial review or any other appeal of this matter.

9. 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 In the event that the Board does not approve this Consent Agreement, it is withdrawn and shall be of no evidentiary value and shall not be relied upon nor introduced in any action by any party, except that the parties agree that if the Board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 hearing, Licensee shall assert no claim that the Board was prejudiced by its review and discussion of this document or any other records relating thereto.

11. 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 shall be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank.

FINDINGS OF FACT

12. In September, 2015, the mother (“Mother”) of a minor child (“Daughter”) sought out treatment for Daughter with Licensee. Licensee subsequently began treating Daughter. Mother and the father (“Father”) of Daughter were involved in a high-conflict family court matter. Licensee had no contact with Father during her treatment of Daughter.

13. On November 19, 2016, at Mother's request, Licensee wrote a "Summary Report of Counseling Services" ("Report") wherein Licensee summarized her counseling sessions with Daughter

1 and provided recommendations concerning Father, that Daughter “should have regularly scheduled
2 visits with her father that are supervised” and “[i]t is this examiner's opinion that no overnight visits
3 should be scheduled at this time.”

4 14. Licensee provided her Report to Mother, and the Report was subsequently provided to
5 the judge in parents’ family court proceedings.

6 15. On December 9, 2016, the Board received a complaint from Father alleging that
7 Licensee had made an assessment of his parenting ability without ever meeting him personally or
8 reviewing his medical history. Father enclosed with his complaint a December 1, 2016, letter that he
9 had written to the family court judge rebutting Licensee’s recommendations and asserting that Licensee
10 was biased against him.

11 16. Licensee acknowledged that, although her Report was intended to provide a clinical
12 statement, it offered a recommendation regarding Father’s visitation without having the necessary data
13 and skill to objectively make the recommendation. Licensee subsequently examined her practice and
14 procedures, and has taken a number of corrective actions including the following:

- 15 a. Studied various journal articles addressing the difference between therapeutic and
16 forensic roles and principles important for practitioners to be aware of when treating
17 children with parents who are in high conflict.
- 18 b. Reviewed guidelines provided by the American Psychological Association and the
19 Association of Family and Conciliation Courts regarding forensic/court-involved
20 matters.
- 21 c. Established consultation relationships with forensic specialists and forensically
22 informed practitioners, from whom she can seek advisement when forensic issues arise
23 in cases where she is providing clinical services.
- 24 d. Changed her practices to include more active efforts to reach out to, invite
25 participation, and involve both parents in a child’s treatment.
- 26 e. Updated her intake and consent forms to include policies and procedures for working
27 with clients who could become court-involved, which specifically state that Licensee is

1 not a forensic practitioner, that her services are not for the purpose of court/forensic
2 needs, and explicitly state that Licensee will not provide written statements for any
3 potential forensic matters.

4 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

5 17. The conduct and circumstances described above constitute unprofessional conduct
6 pursuant to A.R.S. §32-2061(15)(o), for providing services that are unprofessional by current
7 standards of practice.

8 18. The conduct and circumstances described above constitute unprofessional conduct
9 pursuant to A.R.S. §32-2061(15)(dd), for violating an ethical standard adopted by the Board, as it
10 pertains to the American Psychological Association's 2002 Ethical Standards of Psychologists and
11 Code of Conduct, Standard 9.01, Bases for Assessments, and Standard 3.04, Avoiding Harm.

12 **ORDER FOR DECREE OF CENSURE**

13 19. Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Board has
14 determined that Licensee's conduct in connection with Complaint No. 16-49 warrants disciplinary
15 action. The parties agree that Licensee is hereby issued a Decree of Censure.

16 20. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** Licensee understands that the foregoing Consent Agreement
17 shall not become effective unless and until adopted by and executed on behalf of the Board. Any
18 modification to this original document is ineffective and void unless mutually approved by the parties
19 in writing.

20 21. **CONSIDERATION IN FUTURE ACTIONS:** Licensee understands that this
21 Consent Agreement, or any part thereof, may be considered in any future disciplinary action against
22 her.

23 22. **FINAL RESOLUTION:** This Consent Agreement constitutes a final resolution of
24 this disciplinary matter but does not constitute a dismissal or resolution of other matters currently
25 pending before the Board, if any, and does not constitute any waiver, expressed or implied, of the
26 Board's statutory authority or jurisdiction regarding any other pending or future investigations, actions
27 or proceedings. Further, this Consent Agreement does not preclude any other agency, subdivision or

1 officer of this State from instituting other civil or criminal proceedings with respect to the conduct that
2 is the subject of this Consent Agreement.

3 23. **PUBLIC RECORD:** This Consent Agreement is a public record that may be publicly
4 disseminated as a formal action of the Board and shall be reported to the National Practitioner Data
5 Bank.

6 DATED THIS 24th day of April, 2017
7

8 ARIZONA BOARD OF
9 PSYCHOLOGIST EXAMINERS
10

11 Kristine Autry EdD
12 Kristine Autry, Ed.D.
13 Licensee

Cindy Olvey PsyD
Cindy Olvey, Psy.D.
Executive Director

14 ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed this

15 24th day of April 2017, with:

16 The Arizona State Board of Psychologist Examiners
17 1400 West Washington, Suite 240
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

18 COPY mailed by Certified Mail, No. 7016 2440 0000 6959 4381

19 this 24th day of April 2017 to:

20 Kristine Autry, Ed.D.
21 Address on Record

22 COPY mailed

23 this 24th day of April 2017, to:

24 Faren Akins, Esq.
Akins Law Firm
25 7702 E. Doubletree Ranch Rd., Suite 300
Scottsdale, AZ 85258-9818
26
27

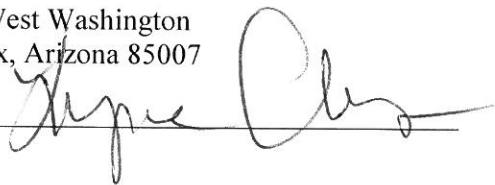
1 COPY of the foregoing mailed by interagency

2 this 24th day of April 2017, to:

3

4 Jeanne M. Galvin, AAG
5 Office of the Attorney General
6 CIV/LES

7 1275 West Washington
8 Phoenix, Arizona 85007

9 By: 

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