BEFORE THE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGIST EXAMINERS FOR THE STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of:

Case No. 21-15

Janice Blair, Ph.D.,

Holder of License No. PSY-003430 For the Practice of Psychology In the State of Arizona.

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND CONSENT AGREEMENT FOR SURRENDER OF PSYCHOLOGIST LICENSE

In the interest of a prompt and judicious settlement of the above-captioned matter before the Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners ("Board") and consistent with public interest, statutory requirements and responsibilities of the Board and pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2061 *et seq.*, and A.R.S. § 41-1092.07(F)(5), Janice Blair, Ph.D. ("Respondent"), holder of License No. PSY-003430 and the Board enter into this Consent Agreement for Voluntary Surrender of Psychologist License ("Consent Agreement") as the final disposition of this matter.

JURISDICTION

- 1. The Board is authorized to regulate the practice of psychology in Arizona pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2061, *et. seq.*, and the rules promulgated thereunder, found in Arizona Administrative Code ("A.A.C." or "rules") at R4-26-101, *et seq.*, to regulate and control the licensing of psychologists in the State of Arizona.
- 2. Respondent is the holder of license number PSY-003430 for the practice of psychology in the State of Arizona.
- 3. The Board has personal and subject matter jurisdiction over Respondent pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2061, *et seq.*, and the rules of A.A.C. R4-26-101, *et seq.*

RECITALS

Respondent understands and agrees that:

1. The Board and Respondent enter into this Consent Agreement to promptly and

judiciously resolve this matter, consistent with the public interest and the statutory requirements of the Board.

- 2. Respondent has the right to consult with an attorney prior to entering into this Consent Agreement.
- 3. Respondent has a right to a public hearing concerning this case. She further acknowledges that at such formal hearing she could present evidence and cross-examine witnesses. Respondent irrevocably waives her right to such a hearing.
- 4. Respondent irrevocably waives any right to rehearing or review or to any judicial review or any other appeal to this matter.
- 5. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that the acceptance of this Consent Agreement is solely to settle this Board matter and does not preclude the Board from instituting other proceedings as may be appropriate now or in the future.
- 6. Respondent understands that this Consent Agreement does not constitute a dismissal or resolution of any other matters currently pending before the Board, if any, and does not constitute any waiver, express or implied, of the Board's statutory authority or jurisdiction regarding any other pending or future investigation, action or proceeding.
- 7. Furthermore, and notwithstanding any language in this Consent Agreement, this Consent Agreement does not preclude in any way any other state agency or officer or political subdivision of this state from instituting proceedings, investigating claims, or taking legal action as may be appropriate now or in the future relating to this matter or other matters concerning Respondent, including violations of the Consumer Fraud Act. Respondent acknowledges that, other than with respect to the Board, this Consent Agreement makes no representations, implied or otherwise, about the views or intended actions of any other state agency or officer or political subdivision of the state relating to this matter or other matters concerning Respondent.
- 8. This Consent Agreement shall be subject to the approval by the Board and shall be effective only when approved by the Board and signed by the Board's Executive Director. 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 the parties agree that should the Board reject this Consent Agreement and this case proceeds to hearing, Respondent shall assert no claim that the Board was prejudiced by its review and discussion of this document or any records relating thereto.

- 9. The Consent Agreement, once approved by the Board and signed by the Respondent and the Executive Director, shall constitute a public record, which may be disseminated as a formal action of the Board and shall be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank.
- 10. Respondent voluntarily enters into this Consent Agreement for the purpose of avoiding the expense, uncertainty, and prolonged time involved in further administrative proceedings. The issues contained herein are resolved by settlement and not actually litigated. Any allegations and findings herein may not be used *for res judicata* or collateral estoppel effect in any subsequent civil proceedings for any claims of professional liability or negligence by or on behalf of Complainant(s).

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Respondent was first licensed in Arizona on February 14, 2001. She has maintained a private practice in Scottsdale, Arizona.
- 2. On or about March 13, 2021, the Board received Complaint No. 21-15 from a licensed clinical social worker in Arizona, alleging that his current adult male client ("Client") disclosed on February 27, 2021 during a crisis phone call and a subsequent therapy session that he had an inappropriate relationship with Respondent, his former psychologist. Client reported that Respondent came to Client's home in 2004 after the death of his father to console him, at which time an intimate relationship began and that Respondent later admitted her actions were wrong and ended the relationship.
- 3. Respondent acknowledges that the conduct as alleged by Client occurred. Respondent represents that the incident was a one-time occurrence that occurred approximately one year after

the professional relationship ended.

4. After receiving the complaint, Respondent contacted the Board and indicated her desire to voluntarily surrender her license in lieu of additional administrative proceedings.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The conduct and circumstances alleged above constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2061(16)(f), Sexual intimacies or sexual intercourse with a current client or patient or a supervisee or with a former client or patient within two years after the cessation or termination of treatment.

ORDER

Pursuant to A.R.S. §32-2081(S), the Board has determined that the Respondent's conduct in Complaint No. 21-15 warrants disciplinary action. Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the parties agree to the provisions and penalties imposed as follows:

- 1. Upon the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent's license number PSY-003430 for the practice of psychology in the State of Arizona shall be surrendered, effective Friday, May 21, 2021, so to allow Respondent sufficient time to transition her clients. Once the surrender is effectuated, Respondent shall not practice psychology in the State of Arizona or hold herself out as a licensed psychologist in the State of Arizona. The effective date of this Consent Agreement is the date the Consent Agreement is accepted by the Board as evidenced by the signature of the Board's Executive Director.
- 2. Respondent has read and understands this Consent Agreement as set forth herein, and has had the opportunity to discuss this Consent Agreement with an attorney or has waived the opportunity to discuss this Consent Agreement with an attorney for the purpose of avoiding the expense and uncertainty of an administrative hearing.
- Respondent understands that this Consent Agreement, or any part thereof, may be considered in any future disciplinary action against her or in any future decision regarding relicensure.

1	4. Respondent understands that the foregoing Consent Agreement shall not become
2	effective unless and until adopted by the Board and executed on behalf of the Board. Any
3	modification to this original document is ineffective and void unless mutually approved by both
4	parties in writing.
5	
6	DATED this 7 day of May , 2021.
7	Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners
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9	(State) thidi Horlest Paustonin
10	Janice Blair, Ph.D. Heidi Herbst Paakkonen
11	Respondent Executive Director
12	
13	ORIGINAL filed This <u>7</u> day of <u>May</u> , 2021 to:
14	Arizona State Board of Psychologist Examiners
15	1740 W. Adams St., Suite 3403
16	Phoenix, Arizona 85007
17	COPY of the foregoing mailed by Certified Mail No. 9489009000276155081372 This _7_ day of, 2021 to:
18	Janice Blair, Ph.D.
19	Address on Record
20	Respondent
21	COPY of the foregoing mailed by USPS regular mail This _7 day of, 2021 to:
22	This day of, 2021 to:
23	Charles S. Hover III, Esq. RENAUD COOK DRURY MESAROS, PA
24	One North Central, Ste. 900
25	Phoenix, AZ 85004-4117
26	COPY of the foregoing via email (jeanne.galvin@azag.gov) This 7 day of May , 2021 to:
27	1 11115 1 Gay 01, 2021 to.
28	Jeanne M. Galvin Assistant Attorney General

2005 North Central Ave. SGD/LES Phoenix, Arizona 85004 Jeanne.galvin@azag.gov Attorney for the State of Arizona

By: Jennifer Michaelsen