

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

3  
4 **In the Matter of :** ) **Case No. 20-43**  
5 **John Carlson, Ph.D.** ) **ORDER FOR CONTINUING**  
6 **Holder of License No. PSY-003324** ) **EDUCATION**  
7 **for the Practice of Psychology** ) **(Non-Disciplinary)**  
8 **in the State of Arizona** )

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9 On October 2, 2020, the Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners (“Board”) met in  
10 open session to discuss the above-referenced case. John Carlson, Ph.D. (“Respondent”)   
11 appeared virtually with his legal counsel, Dr. Faren Akins. After discussion, consideration, and  
12 deliberation, the Board voted to issue Respondent this Non-Disciplinary Order for Continuing  
13 Education (“Order”).

14 **JURISDICTION**

- 15 1. The Board is authorized to regulate the practice of psychology in Arizona  
16 pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes (hereafter “A.R.S.”) § 32-2061, *et seq.*
- 17 2. Respondent is the holder of license number PSY-003324 for the practice of  
18 psychology in the State of Arizona.
- 19 3. The Board has personal and subject matter jurisdiction over Respondent  
20 pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2061, *et seq.*

21 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 22 1. From August 2019 – October 2019, an adult male client (“Client”), who is a  
23 military veteran, participated in eight therapy sessions with Respondent at Respondent’s private  
24 practice.
- 25 2. On March 16, 2020, the Board received Complaint No. 20-43 from Client,  
26 which alleged that Respondent failed to provide Client with his complete medical record after  
27 requesting them and that the handwritten notes that he did receive were not legible.
- 28 3. The Board determined that the clinical record for Client was below current

1 practice standards and failed to include an informed consent for treatment, treatment plan,  
2 diagnosis and legible notes. Furthermore, Respondent's clinical practices are outdated and not  
3 in line with ethical standards for psychologists.

4 4. The Board noted that, since filing of the complaint, Respondent has updated his  
5 clinical documentation forms and completed multiple continuing education courses since being  
6 notified of the complaint, in the areas of recordkeeping and treatment planning. Furthermore,  
7 Respondent transcribed the handwritten session notes and provided Client with a copy of the  
8 typed notes.

9 **ORDER**

10 Pursuant to A.R.S. §32-2081(J)(3), the Board considers that while the Respondent's  
11 conduct in Complaint No. 20-43 does not warrant disciplinary action, it is nonetheless cause for  
12 concern on the part of the Board and that continuation of such actions may result in disciplinary  
13 action therefore, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

14 1. **CONTINUING EDUCATION:** In addition to the continuing education  
15 requirements that are required by A.A.C. R4-26-207 for license renewal, within six (6) months  
16 of the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall complete six (6) clock hours of continuing  
17 education in the content areas of record-keeping, informed consent, and treatment of military  
18 veterans with PTSD. These 6 clock hours of continuing education shall be pre-approved by the  
19 Executive Director or designee. Within two weeks of completion of the additional continuing  
20 education, Respondent shall provide the Board with verification of completion of these hours.

21 2. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** The effective date of this Order is 35 days after the date  
22 that an executed copy of the Order is mailed to the Respondent.

23 3. **NON-COMPLIANCE:** If Respondent fails to comply with the terms of this  
24 Order, the Board shall properly institute proceedings for noncompliance with this Order, which  
25 may result in disciplinary and/or remedial actions. Violation of this Order is a violation of  
26 A.R.S. § 32-2061(16)(aa), which is "violating a formal board order, consent agreement, term of  
27 probation or stipulated agreement."

28 4. **CONSIDERATION IN FUTURE ACTIONS:** Respondent understands that  
this Order, or any part thereof, may be considered in any future disciplinary action against him.

1           5.     **FINAL RESOLUTION:** This Order constitutes a final resolution of this Non-  
2 Disciplinary matter but does not constitute a dismissal or resolution of other matters currently  
3 pending before the Board, if any, and does not constitute any waiver, expressed or implied, of  
4 the Board's statutory authority or jurisdiction regarding any other pending or future  
5 investigations, actions or proceedings. Further, this Order does not preclude any other agency,  
6 subdivision or officer of this State from instituting other civil or criminal proceedings with  
7 respect to the conduct that is the subject of this Order.

8           6.     **TIME:** Time is of the essence with regard to this Order.

9           7.     **COSTS:** Respondent shall be responsible for all costs incurred as a result of his  
10 compliance with this Order.

11          8.     **PUBLIC RECORD:** This Order constitutes a public record that may be  
12 publicly disseminated as a formal action of the Board.

13          9.     **RIGHT TO PETITION FOR REHEARING OR REVIEW:** Respondent is  
14 hereby notified that he has the right to petition for a rehearing or review. Pursuant to A.R.S. §  
15 41-1092.09, the petition for rehearing or review must be filed with the Board's Executive  
16 Director within 30 days after service of this Order. Pursuant to A.A.C. R4-26-308, the petition  
17 must set forth legally sufficient reasons for granting a rehearing. Service of this Order is  
18 effective five days after date of mailing. If a motion for rehearing is not filed, the Board's  
19 Order becomes effective 35 days after it is mailed to the Respondent.  
20

21                 Respondent is further notified that the filing of a motion for rehearing is  
22 required to preserve any rights of appeal to the Superior Court.

23 DATED this   6   day of October, 2020.

25 ARIZONA BOARD OF  
26 PSYCHOLOGIST EXAMINERS

27 

28 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Heidi Herbst Paakkonen  
Executive Director

1 **ORIGINAL** of the foregoing filed  
2 this 6 day of October, 2020, with:

3 The Arizona State Board of Psychologist Examiners  
4 1740 West Adams St., Suite 3403  
5 Phoenix, Arizona 85007

6 **COPY** mailed by regular and certified mail # 9489009000276155081501  
7 this 6 day of October, 2020, to:

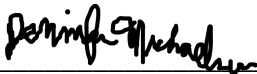
8 John Carlson, Ph.D.  
9 Address on Record  
10 Respondent

11 **COPY** mailed by regular mail  
12 this 6 day of October 2020, to:

13 Faren Akins, Ph.D., J.D.  
14 Akins Law Firm  
15 7702 East Doubletree Ranch Road  
16 Suite 300  
17 Scottsdale, AZ 85258

18 **COPY** of the foregoing via email (jeanne.galvin@azag.gov)  
19 this 6 day of October, 2020 to:

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

24 By:  \_\_\_\_\_