

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGIST EXAMINERS
FOR THE STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of)

No. 06-18

Maria Veronica Hannel, Ph.D.)

CONSENT AGREEMENT,
FINDINGS OF FACT,
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW
AND ORDER OF PROBATION

Holder of License No. 631
for the Practice of Psychology
in the State of Arizona)

In lieu of a Formal Hearing in this matter, the Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners ("Board) and Maria Veronica Hannel, Ph.D. ("Licensee") agree to enter into the following Consent Agreement, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order of Probation, as a final resolution of this matter consistent with the interest and statutory requirements of the Board.

1. Licensee has consulted with her attorney prior to entering into this Consent Agreement. She has read and understands the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order of Probation and makes this agreement freely and voluntarily. She irrevocably waives her right to a hearing, rehearing or judicial review.

2. Licensee further understands this Consent Agreement and Order of Probation, once approved and signed, is a disciplinary matter which will be placed in her public record file.

3. Licensee acknowledges but does not admit to the Statement of Facts and Conclusions of Law contained in this Consent Agreement and Order of Probation.

4. All admissions made by Licensee are solely for disposition of this matter and, therefore, any admissions by Licensee are not intended for any other purpose, administrative regulatory proceeding or litigation in this state, another state or federal court.

5. Licensee acknowledges and agrees upon signing and returning this document (or a copy thereof) to the Board's Executive Director she may not later revoke or amend any part of the Consent Agreement and Order of Probation, without first obtaining Board approval.

6. The Order of Probation is a final decision by the Board. It shall become effective when signed by the Board's Executive Director. The Consent Agreement is a public record.

1 REVIEWED AND ACCEPTED THIS 30 DAY OF April, 2007.

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3 Maria Veronica Hannel, Ph.D.
4 Maria Veronica Hannel, Ph.D.
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6 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

7 7. On or about May 17, 2006, the Board received a complaint by M.A. related to care and
8 treatment provided by Licensee in August and September 2005. The Complainant alleged that
9 Licensee should not have made an Axis II diagnosis of Borderline Personality Disorder based on the
10 presenting complaints, the patient's life circumstances and the evaluation performed.

11 8. Based on a review of Licensee's records, the Board had concerns about the diagnosis of
12 Borderline Personality Disorder when made and based on the information available to Licensee
13 when the diagnosis was made.

14 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

15 9. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2061, et seq., the Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners
16 has subject matter and personal jurisdiction in this matter. Licensee waives all legal rights to
17 challenge the authority, jurisdiction or power of the Board to enter into this Consent Agreement and
18 Order. Licensee further waives any right to administrative or judicial review of this matter.

19 10. The conduct and circumstances described in paragraphs 7 and 8 above, if proven true,
20 would constitute unprofessional conduct as defined in the following paragraph of A.R.S. § 32-
21 2061(A)(13):

22 (o) *Providing services that are unnecessary or unsafe or otherwise engaging in*
23 *activities as psychologist that are unprofessional by current standards of practice.*

24 **ORDER**

25 Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the parties agree as
26 follows:

27 **1. Probation:**

28 Maria Veronica Hannel, Ph.D., shall be placed on probation for a period of one (1) year

1 subject to the tolling provisions of this Order. In this Order, "toll" means to delay or hold off the
2 running of the period of probation. If the period of probation is tolled under the terms of this Order,
3 the time during which probation is tolled does not apply to reduce the duration of probation.
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5 **2. Course Work:**

6 During the one year period of probation, Licensee shall successfully complete not less than
7 three (3) hours of course work at the graduate level at an accredited educational institution in the
8 following area:

9 **Psychological Assessment/Personality Assessment**

10 Course work must be preapproved by the Board's Chairperson. Within thirty (30) days of
11 the effective date of this Order, Licensee shall submit to the Board for prior approval a plan for
12 meeting this course work requirement. In-person classroom attendance is specifically required;
13 correspondence or self study or home study course work shall not count toward meeting this
14 requirement. "Successfully complete" means with a grade of "B" or better and Licensee shall
15 provide written confirmation of completion of the course work.

16 **3. Continuing Education:**

17 (A) During the one year period of probation, Licensee shall successfully complete not
18 less than six (6) hours of continuing education sponsored by an approved continuing education
19 provider in the following area:

20 **Borderline Personality Disorder**

21 The continuing education must be preapproved by the Board Chairperson. Within thirty (30)
22 days of the effective date of this Order, Licensee shall submit to the Board for prior approval a plan
23 for meeting this continuing education requirement. In-person attendance is specifically required;
24 correspondence or self-study or home study courses shall not count toward meeting this requirement.
25 The continuing education must be in addition to the continuing education required for license
26 renewal. Licensee shall provide written confirmation of completion of the continuing education.

27 (B) During the one year period of probation, Licensee shall complete not less than three
28 (3) hours of continuing education sponsored by an approved continuing education provider in the
following area:

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Family Court Proceedings

The continuing education must be preapproved by the Board Chairperson. Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Order, Licensee shall submit to the Board for prior approval a plan for meeting this continuing education requirement. These continuing education hours shall be considered as part of the Category I hours required for license renewal. Licensee shall provide written confirmation of completion of the continuing education.

4. Restriction of Client Population:

Licensee shall not provide psychological services involving Borderline Personality Disorder clients until all course work and continuing education has been completed.

5. Early Termination:

Upon completion of the course work and continuing education requirements referenced above, Licensee may petition the Board for early termination of her probation. The Board, in its sole discretion, may then decide whether to grant the request for early termination of Licensee's probation prior to the one year period referenced above.

6. Tolling for Periods of Non-Practice:

If Licensee, for any reason, stops practicing psychology in Arizona for more than thirty (30) days or leaves Arizona to reside or practice psychology outside Arizona, the periods of temporary or permanent residency or practice outside Arizona do not apply to reduce the duration of probation under this Consent Agreement, Licensee shall notify the Board in writing within five days of the dates of departure and return or the dates of non-practice in Arizona.

7. Strict Enforcement

The Board shall strictly enforce the terms of this Order of Probation. Any violation of the Order by Licensee shall be grounds for disciplinary action, including summary suspension, pending hearing for revocation or other action. Licensee bears responsibility for the timely delivery to the Board's office of all reports, information, and documents required to be submitted under this Order. Lack of timely receipt at the Board's office constitutes a violation of this Order.

1 ISSUED THIS 2nd DAY OF May, 2007.

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4 ARIZONA BOARD OF
PSYCHOLOGIST EXAMINERS

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6 By Maxine McCarthy
7 Maxine McCarthy, Executive Director

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9 **ORIGINAL** of the foregoing filed this
2nd day of May, 2007, with:

10 The Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners
11 1400 West Washington, Suite 235
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

12 **COPY** of the foregoing Consent Agreement
13 Sent via certified mail No. 7000 1670 0009 3607 8776
this 2nd day of May, 2007 to:

14 Maria Veronica Hannel, Ph.D.
15 Address of record

16 **COPY** of the foregoing mailed this
2nd day of May, 2007, to:

17 Bruce Crawford, Esq.
18 CRAWFORD & KLINE, P.L.C.
19 1920 E. Southern Ave., Ste 101
Tempe, AZ 85282

20 **COPY** of the foregoing sent by interagency
this 2nd day of May, 2007, to:

21 Keely Lynn Verstegen
22 Assistant Attorney General
23 Office of the Attorney General, Civil/LES
1275 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

24 By Sharon S. Courtney