

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

3
4 In the Matter of:)

5 John Denboer, Ph.D.)

6 Former Holder of License No. PSY-004026)
7 for the Practice of Psychology)
8 in the State of Arizona)

9 **License Voluntarily Surrendered**)
10 **December 10, 2020**)

CEASE AND DESIST ORDER

11 On February 12, 2021, the Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners (“Board”) met in
12 open session for the purposes of determining whether grounds existed to issue a Cease and
13 Desist Order to John DenBoer, Ph.D. (“Respondent”). Respondent and his attorney, Jeffrey
14 Hunter, appeared virtually and addressed the Board.

15 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

16 1. On April 6, 2009, Respondent was issued a psychologist license by the Board.

17 2. On December 10, 2020, the Board accepted a signed Consent Agreement by
18 Respondent for the voluntary surrender of his psychologist license regarding multiple
19 complaints. The effective date of the license surrender was December 10, 2020.

20 3. On or about December 16, 2020, Board staff was contacted by a licensed
21 psychologist in the State of Arizona (“Licensee”), who sought to verify Respondent’s license as
22 he had recently applied for a licensed psychologist position at her practice in Phoenix, through
23 Indeed.com. In response to questions from Board staff, Licensee indicated the following in an
24 email dated December 17, 2020:

25 a. Licensee posted an ad on www.Indeed.com for a part-time licensed
26 psychologist position to conduct psychological evaluations at her practice.

27 b. The job posting on Indeed stated, ““We have an immediate opening for a
28 part-time contract positon for a Psychologist. This position is open to

1 individuals who already have a license as a Psychologist in Arizona. If you
2 do not have a license as a Psychologist, please do not apply. The immediate
3 need is for a Psychologist to conduct psychological evaluations."

- 4 c. Licensee received Dr. DenBoer's application on December 13, 2020.
- 5 d. In subsequent email exchanges to arrange for an interview, Respondent
6 stated, "I have sold my practice and currently doing Telehealth on a part
7 time basis."
- 8 e. Respondent participated in a virtual interview for the position with Licensee
9 on December 16, 2020.
- 10 f. During the interview, Licensee did not ask Respondent about his licensure
11 status given that the job posting on Indeed stated that licensure in Arizona is
12 a requirement.
- 13 g. Additionally, Respondent did not state where he lives, although his
14 *curriculum vitae* indicated that he lived in the Phoenix metro area.
- 15 h. The work that Respondent applied for would require him to come to her
16 office in central Phoenix and there did not appear to be any barriers.
- 17 i. Respondent did not inform Licensee of his surrendered license or the
18 complaints.
- 19 j. After conducting the interview, Licensee researched Respondent on the
20 internet and discovered that he had surrendered his license.
- 21 k. Licensee viewed the Consent Agreement for Voluntary Surrender on the
22 Board's website, which confused her as Respondent never mentioned that he
23 was unlicensed during the interview. This information prompted Licensee to
24 contact Board staff for clarification regarding the status of his license.

25 4. Upon request from Board staff, Licensee subsequently provided a copy of the
26 following documents: the Indeed job posting; Respondent's resume that she received with the
27 job application; and her email correspondence with Respondent regarding the application and
28 interview.

1 5. After receiving this information from Licensee, Board staff researched
2 Respondent's online presence in mid-December 2020 and observed that:

3 a. There were two active websites for Respondent's practice that indicate he is
4 a licensed psychologist, in violation of A.R.S. § 32-2084.

5 (www.drjohndenboerphd.com / www.mentaledgepsych.com)

6 b. Respondent had several social media profiles on Facebook, Twitter, and
7 LinkedIn, some of which referred to him as a clinical neuropsychologist in
8 violation of A.R.S. § 32-2084.

9 6. Board staff subsequently sent an advisory email to Respondent on January 4, 2021
10 regarding the above-mentioned information, as it appeared that he was in violation of A.R.S. §
11 32-2084.

12 7. Respondent replied to Board staff's email inquiry on multiple occasions in January
13 2021 indicating that:

14 a. The website that he has control over, www.mentaledgepsych.com, has been
15 taken down but he no longer has access to the www.drjohndenboerphd.com
16 website. Respondent has made various attempts to get the website taken down,
17 to include emailing Godaddy.com, without success.

18 b. Respondent no longer has access to certain social media profiles that continue
19 to display the designation of clinical psychologist as it is tied to an email
20 address that he does not have access to currently.

21 c. With regard to the position at Licensee's practice, "I set up an automatic reply
22 to Indeed ads posting AZ Psychologist Jobs when I was licensed and able to
23 apply and gain employment. I forgot to change this, resulting in further an
24 [*sic*] application going out."

25 d. Licensee never told Respondent that the position required his presence in the
26 office. She indicated that Respondent would be completing compensation and
27 pension evaluations for veterans via telehealth.

28 e. Respondent did mention to Licensee that he was doing Telehealth consulting,

1 which was purely “operational consulting” and did not involve seeing patients.

2 This role lasted for four weeks.

3 f. Respondent is not currently working and has not seen any clinical patients in
4 2020.

5 8. On January 15, 2021, the Board reviewed the information obtained by Board staff.
6 Jeffrey Hunter, Esq., appeared on Respondent’s behalf and indicated the following:

7 a. Respondent has been working on removing anything in his social media
8 profiles that may reflect he is a licensed psychologist, and that Respondent has
9 discussed with him the difficulties he has had with those sources in accessing
10 his accounts in order to make the edits.

11 b. Mr. Hunter planned to issue correspondences to the various social media
12 companies to get the information taken down.

13 c. Respondent is not licensed in another state nor has he applied for licensure in
14 any state.

15 9. The Board voted to continue the matter to the meeting on February 12, 2021
16 meeting in order to:

17 a. Give Respondent an opportunity to provide copies of the correspondence
18 between him and Licensee regarding the licensed psychologist position he
19 applied for, as well as the cease and desist letters from Mr. Hunter regarding
20 the social media profiles and website.

21 b. Subpoena Respondent’s appearance for the February 12, 2021 meeting.

22 10. On February 12, 2021, the Board reviewed the matter. Respondent was present
23 with his attorney, Mr. Hunter, and answered questions from the Board. The Board noted the
24 following:

25 a. Respondent did not provide any documentation regarding the position he
26 applied for at Licensee’s practice nor his correspondence with Licensee,
27 despite Board staff’s request. Respondent’s correspondence to Board staff
28 indicated that he did not have any documentation in his possession.

- 1 b. Respondent has updated the social media profiles on Facebook, Twitter and
2 LinkedIn that he currently has access to and has removed the clinical
3 psychologist designation.
- 4 c. There are other active social media profiles on these platforms that indicate he
5 is a clinical psychologist, but Respondent represents that he no longer has
6 access to the email address associated with these accounts in order to remove
7 the profiles.
- 8 d. Respondent did not provide the Board with the correspondence his attorney
9 sent to the social media companies to remove the profiles.
- 10 e. Additionally, the website, www.drjohndenboerphd.com, is still active, which
11 Respondent represents that he still does not have access to and that his efforts
12 to have the website taken down have been unsuccessful.

13 11. After discussion and deliberation, the Board voted to issue Respondent a Cease &
14 Desist Order for applying and interviewing for licensed psychologist positions in the State of
15 Arizona and for holding himself out as a licensed psychologist.

16 12. Additionally, the Board voted to forward information regarding a licensed
17 psychologist position at a practice located in Wisconsin which Respondent may have applied
18 for through Indeed based on information he provided to Board staff, to the Wisconsin's
19 psychology board for review.

20 **VIOLATIONS**

21 1. Respondent's conduct constitutes a violation of A.R.S. §32-2084(C), which
22 provides that it is a class 2 misdemeanor for a person not licensed to:

- 23 a. (C)(1): Use the designation "psychology", "psychological" or "psychologist";
24 b. (C)(2): Use any combination of words, initials and symbols that leads the
25 public to believe the person is licensed to practice psychology in this state.

26 **ORDER**

27 Under the authority set forth in A.R.S. § 32-3227(C), the Board orders Respondent to
28 immediately Cease and Desist from holding himself out as lawfully able to practice psychology

1 until such time he is licensed to do so. If Respondent continues to engage in such activity in
2 violation of the Board's statutes and rules, the Board may pursue injunctive relief pursuant to
3 A.R.S. § 32-2083.

4 DATED this 19 day of February, 2021.

6 ARIZONA BOARD OF
7 PSYCHOLOGIST EXAMINERS

8 

9 By: _____
10 Heidi Herbst Paakkonen
11 Executive Director

12 **ORIGINAL** filed electronically
13 this 19 day of February, 2021, with:

14 The Arizona State Board of Psychologist Examiners
15 1740 West Adams St., Suite 3403
16 Phoenix, Arizona 85007

17 **COPY** of the foregoing via email [REDACTED]
18 this 19 day of February, 2021, to:

19 John DenBoer, Ph.D.
20 Respondent

21 **COPY** of the foregoing mailed by USPS regular mail
22 this 19 day of February, 2021, with:

23 Jeffrey Hunter, Esq.
24 RENAUD COOK DRURY MESAROS, PA
25 One North Central, Ste. 900
26 Phoenix, AZ 85004-4117
27 Attorney for Respondent

28 **COPY** of the foregoing via email (jeanne.galvin@azag.gov)
This 19 day of February, 2021, with:

Jeanne M. Galvin
Assistant Attorney General
2005 North Central Ave. SGD/LES

1 Phoenix, Arizona 85004
2 Attorney for the State of Arizona

3 By: Jennifer Michaelson
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