

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

3 In the Matter of:

Case No. 14-10

4 **IRENE D. HASSETT, Ph.D.**

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

5 Holder of License No. 4030
6 For the Practice Psychology
7 In the State of Arizona

Licensee

8 In the interest of prompt and judicious settlement of the above-captioned matter before the
9 Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners ("Board") and consistent with public interest,
10 statutory requirements and responsibilities of the Board, and pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2061 *et seq.*
11 and A.R.S. § 41-1092.07(F)(5), Irene D. Hassett, Ph.D. ("Respondent") holder of License No.
12 4030 for the practice of psychology in the State of Arizona and the Board to enter into this
13 Consent Agreement for Voluntary Surrender ("Consent Agreement") as the final disposition of
14 this matter.

15 **JURISDICTION**

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

19 2. Respondent is the holder of License No. 4030 for the practice of psychology in
20 Arizona.

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

23 ...

24 ...

1 Respondent neither admits nor denies the following findings of fact but does
2 acknowledge that if this matter proceeded to formal hearing the state could present evidence in
3 support of the findings of fact, and thus sustaining the conclusions of law. Respondent admits to
4 no wrong-doing.

5 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

6 4. On March 21, 2014, the Board office received a complaint via electronic mail
7 from F.F. ("Complainant") regarding Respondent. The Complainant stated that she was a former
8 patient of the Respondent and alleged that within the past year, the Respondent had engaged in
9 unprofessional conduct, specifically boundary violations. The Complainant claims that the
10 Respondent began talking about herself in therapy sessions and had begun using the
11 Complainant for transportation to church. Complainant suspected disclosure of Complainant's
12 personal issues to other church members without her consent. In addition, the Respondent made
13 personal phone calls to the Complainant asking her for favors as well as filed a missing persons
14 report with the police department when the Complainant stopped returning the Respondent's
15 phone calls.

16 5. The Complainant states that the Respondent's assistant stated, "she is treating
17 other patients the same way . . . spending most of the sessions talking about her (Respondent's)
18 personal needs."

19 6. The Complainant states, "In my last 9 months of sessions, she gradually quit
20 taking notes and when I came the next time to see her, she had forgotten where we left off."

21 7. On March 24, 2014, an investigation into this matter was opened. The Respondent
22 was sent copies of the complaint and a request for a written response and records.

23 8. On April 18, 2014, the Board office received a Letter of Representation from the
24 Respondent's attorney. In addition, the Respondent requested an extension of time within which

1 to reply to the complaint. The Board granted the extension.

2 9. On May 19, 2014, the Respondent and her attorney submitted a response to the
3 complaint. The Respondent stated that she wished to voluntarily surrender her psychology
4 license as she "has neither the health nor the funds to pursue a defense of the complaint lodged
5 against her." She stated that she has been in the process of closing her practice and will no
6 longer be seeing patients.

7 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

8 10. The Board of Psychologist Examiners of the State of Arizona possesses
9 jurisdiction over the subject matter hereof and Irene D. Hassett, Ph.D.

10 11. The conduct and circumstances described above, if proved, could constitute a
11 violation of A.R.S. § 32-2061(13)(b) for betraying professional confidences in disclosing the
12 Complainant's personal information to other public parties.

13 12. A.R.S. § 32-2061(13)(o) for providing services that are unwise or unsafe or
14 otherwise engaging in activities as a psychologist that are unprofessional by current standards of
15 practice for using the Complainant for transportation to church and other public functions.

16 13. A.R.S. § 32-2061(13)(dd) for violating an ethical standard adopted by the Board as
17 it pertains to the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct effective 2003,
18 Standard 3.05, Multiple Relationships.

19 **CONSENT AGREEMENT**

20 **Respondent understands and agrees that:**

21 14. The Board has jurisdiction over the Respondent and the subject matter pursuant to
22 A.R.S. § 32-2061 *et seq.*

23 15. The Respondent has the right to consult with an attorney prior to entering into this
24 Consent Agreement. She has read and understands the Consent Agreement, Findings of Fact,

1 Conclusions of Law, and Order, and makes this agreement freely and voluntarily. She
2 irrevocably waives her right to a hearing, rehearing, or judicial review or any other appeal of this
3 matter.

4 16. The Respondent has a right to a public hearing concerning this matter. She
5 further acknowledges that at such a formal hearing she could present evidence and cross-
6 examine witnesses. The Respondent irrevocably waives her right to such a hearing.

7 17. The Consent Agreement shall be subject to the approval of the Board and shall be
8 effective only when accepted by the Board and signed by the Board's Executive Director. In the
9 event that the Board does not approve this Consent Agreement, it is withdrawn and shall be of no
10 evidentiary value and shall not be relied upon nor introduced in any action by any party, except
11 that the parties agree that should the Board reject this Consent Agreement and this case proceeds
12 to hearing, Respondent shall assert no claim that the Board was prejudiced by its review and
13 discussion of this document or any records thereto.

14 18. The Consent Agreement, once approved by the Board and signed by the
15 Respondent, shall constitute a public record which may be disseminated as a formal action of the
16 Board and shall be reported to the National Practitioner's Databank.

17 **ORDER**

18 Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the parties agree to
19 the provisions and penalties imposed as follows:

20 19. Upon the effective date of this Consent Agreement for Voluntary Surrender, the
21 Respondent's license (#4030) for the practice of psychology in the State of Arizona shall be
22 surrendered. Once the surrender is effectuated, Respondent shall not practice psychology in the
23 State of Arizona or hold herself out as a licensed psychologist in the State of Arizona. The
24 effective date of this Consent Agreement for Voluntary Surrender is the date the Consent

1 Agreement for Voluntary Surrender is accepted by the Board as evidenced by the signature of
2 the Board's Executive Director. The Respondent shall surrender the original of her license to the
3 Board within 7 business days of the effective date of this consent agreement.

4 20. Respondent voluntarily enters into this Consent Agreement for Voluntary
5 Surrender as set forth herein for the purpose of avoiding the expense and uncertainty of an
6 administrative hearing. The issues contained herein were resolved by settlement and not actually
7 litigated. Any allegations and findings herein may not be used for res judicata or collateral
8 estoppel effect in any subsequent civil proceedings for any claims of professional liability or
9 negligence by or on behalf of Complainant, Complainant's family, or representatives.

10 21. Respondent understands that she has the right to a public administrative hearing
11 concerning each and every allegation set forth in the above-captioned matter, at which
12 administrative hearing she could present evidence and cross-examine witnesses. By entering
13 into this Consent Agreement for Voluntary Surrender, Respondent freely and voluntarily
14 relinquishes all rights to such administrative hearing, as well as all rights of rehearing, review,
15 reconsideration, appeal, judicial review or any other administrative and/or judicial action,
16 concerning the matters set forth herein. Respondent affirmatively agrees that this Consent
17 Agreement for Voluntary Surrender shall be irrevocable.

18 22. Respondent understands that this Consent Agreement for Voluntary Surrender, or
19 any part thereof, may be considered in any future disciplinary action against her or in any future
20 decision regarding re-licensure.

21 23. The parties agree that this Consent Agreement for Voluntary Surrender does not
22 constitute a dismissal or resolution of other matters currently pending before the Board, if any,
23 and does not constitute any waiver, expressed or implied, of the Board's statutory authority or
24 jurisdiction regarding any other pending or future investigation, action or proceeding.

1 Respondent also understands that acceptance of the Consent Agreement for Voluntary Surrender
2 does not preclude any other agency, subdivision or officer of this state from instituting other civil
3 or criminal proceedings with respect to the conduct that is subject of this Consent Agreement for
4 Voluntary Surrender.

5 24. Respondent understands that the foregoing Consent Agreement for Voluntary
6 Surrender shall not become effective unless and until adopted by the Board of Psychology and
7 executed on behalf of the Board. Any modification to this original document is ineffective and
8 void unless mutually approved by both parties in writing.

9 25. Respondent understands that this Consent Agreement for Voluntary Surrender is a
10 public record and may be publicly disseminated as a formal action of the Board.

11
12 DATED this 14th day of July, 2014.

13 ARIZONA BOARD OF
14 PSYCHOLOGIST EXAMINERS

15 Irene D. Hassett Ph.D.

16 Irene D. Hassett, Ph.D.
17 Licensee

18 Cindy Olvey

19 Cindy Olvey, Psy.D.
20 Executive Director

21
22 ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed this
23 14th day of July, 2014, with:

24 The Arizona State Board of Psychologist Examiners
1400 West Washington, Suite 235
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

1 **COPY** of the foregoing mailed by Certified mail

2 No. 7009 2250 0002 7170 7438
this 15th day of July, 2014 to:

3 Irene D. Hassett, Ph.D.

Address of record

4 **COPY** of the foregoing sent by regular mail

this 15th day of July, 2014 to:

5 Faren Akins, Esq.

Akins Law Firm

6 7702 E. Doubletree Ranch Rd., Ste. #300

Scottsdale, AZ 85258-2132

7 **COPY** of the foregoing sent by interagency/regular mail

8 this 15th day of July, 2014 to:

9 Jeanne M. Galvin, Assistant Attorney General

Office of the Attorney General, Civil/LES

10 1275 West Washington

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

11 By: 