

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

3 **In the Matter of :**) **Case No. 20-50**
4 **Patti R. Watson, Ed.D.**) **CONSENT AGREEMENT**
5 **Holder of License No. 003298**) **AND ORDER NOT TO**
6 **for the Practice of Psychology**) **RENEW LICENSE**
7 **in the State of Arizona**) **(NON-DISCIPLINARY)**

8 In the interest of a prompt and judicious settlement of the above-captioned matter
9 before the Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners ("Board") and consistent with public
10 interest, statutory requirements and responsibilities of the Board and pursuant to A.R.S. §
11 32-2061 *et seq.*, and A.R.S. § 41-1092.07(F)(5), Patti Watson, Ed.D. ("Respondent"), holder
12 of License No. PSY-003298 and the Board enter into this Consent Agreement and Order Not
13 to Renew License ("Consent Agreement") as the final disposition of this matter.
14

15 **JURISDICTION**

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

20 2. Respondent is the holder of license number PSY-003298 for the practice of
21 psychology in the State of Arizona.

22 3. The Board has personal and subject matter jurisdiction over Respondent
23 pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2061, *et seq.*, and the rules at A.A.C. R4-26-101, *et seq.*

24 **RECITALS**

25 Respondent understands and agrees that:

26 1. The Board and Respondent enter into this Consent Agreement to promptly and
27 judiciously resolve this matter, consistent with the public interest and the statutory
28 requirements of the Board.

1 2. Respondent has the right to consult with an attorney prior to entering into this
2 Consent Agreement.

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

6 4. Respondent irrevocably waives any right to rehearing or review or to any
7 judicial review or any other appeal of this matter.

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

15 6. The Consent Agreement, once approved by the Board and signed by the
16 Respondent, shall constitute a public record, which may be disseminated as a formal action of
17 the Board. This Consent Agreement and Order is non-disciplinary in nature and therefore, shall
18 not be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank.

19 7. Respondent voluntarily enters into this Consent Agreement for the purpose of
20 avoiding the expense, uncertainty, and prolonged time involved in further administrative
21 proceedings. The issues contained herein are resolved by settlement and not actually litigated.
22 Any allegations and findings herein may not be used for *res judicata* or collateral estoppel
23 effect in any subsequent civil proceedings for any claims of professional liability or negligence
24 by or on behalf of Complainant.

25 8. Respondent neither admits nor denies the allegations contained herein but does
26 acknowledge that if this matter proceeds through investigation and to formal hearing, the Board
27 could gather sufficient evidence for a trier of fact to determine that the allegations true.

28 ...

1 **BACKGROUND**

2 1. Respondent is a licensed psychologist in the State of Arizona, license no. PSY-
3 003298. She has been licensed in Arizona since April 13, 1999.

4 2. On June 11, 2020, the Board received Complaint 20-50. The allegations in the
5 complaint raise issues surrounding Respondent's adult male client ("Client"), who Respondent
6 provided services to from 2014 – 2019 through her private practice.

7 3. On October 2, 2020, the Board conducted an initial review for Complaint 20-50
8 and voted to refer the case to an Informal Interview based on three potential violations
9 unprofessional conduct.

10 4. The Board expressed concern that Respondent may have provided tele-
11 psychotherapy services to Client once he moved to another state without holding a license in
12 those respective states (California and Idaho). Dr. Watson represented that, once Client left
13 Arizona, she transitioned from providing psychotherapy to life coaching. The Board noted that
14 it appeared as if Dr. Watson switched to providing services under the guise of life coaching to
15 avoid licensure requirements in the other two states. Additionally, it was not clear that Dr.
16 Watson was providing life coaching services as she has represented and that Client's record
17 gave the appearance she was providing psychotherapy services to Client in California and
18 Idaho, in that:

- 19 a. There is no indication in the record that therapy had terminated.
20 b. Client did not sign any documentation when services switched to life
21 coaching.
22 c. The progress notes for life coaching sessions list a diagnosis and billing code
23 for psychotherapy. Additionally, each note is labeled "Psychotherapy Progress
24 Note", with the body of some of the notes indicating that the services were for
25 coaching.

26 5. Respondent elected to enter into this Consent Agreement in lieu of proceeding to an
27 Informal Interview.
28

ORDER

In lieu of further administrative proceedings, the parties agree that the Board may enter the following Order:

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. Respondent's current license expired on October 31, 2020. Respondent agreed not to submit a renewal application for licensure. As of November 1, 2020, Respondent shall no longer practice psychology in the State of Arizona or hold herself out as a licensed psychologist in the State of Arizona. Should Respondent reapply for licensure in the future, Complaint 20-50 will be considered by the Board as part of its determination of whether she is competent to practice psychology.

2. Respondent understands that this Consent Agreement shall not become effective unless and until adopted by the Board of Psychologist Examiners and executed on behalf of the Board. Any modification to this original document is ineffective and void unless mutually approved by the parties in writing.

3. 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 for the purpose of avoiding the expense and uncertainty of an administrative hearing.

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

5. 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


1 re-licensure.

2 6. The parties agree that this Consent Agreement does not constitute a dismissal
3 or resolution of other matters currently pending before the Board, if any, and does not
4 constitute any waiver, expressed or implied, of the Board's statutory authority or jurisdiction
5 regarding any other pending or future investigation, action or proceeding. Respondent also
6 understands that acceptance of the Consent Agreement does not preclude any other agency,
7 subdivision or officer of this state from instituting other civil or criminal proceedings with
8 respect to the conduct that is subject of this Consent Agreement. The parties agree that this
9 Consent Agreement is a final adjudication of Complaint 20-50.

10 7. This Consent Agreement and Order is a public record that may be publicly
11 disseminated as a formal action of the Board but shall not be reported to the National
12 Practitioner Data Bank.

13
14 DATED this 6 day of November, 2020.

15
16 Arizona Board of
17 Psychologist Examiners

18
19 
20 Patti Watson, Ed.D.
21 Respondent

18
19 
20 Heidi Herbst Paakkonen
21 Executive Director

22
23 **ORIGINAL** of the foregoing filed
24 This 6 day of November, 2020 with:

25 The Arizona State Board of Psychologist Examiners
26 1740 West Adams Street, Suite 3403
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

27 **COPY** mailed by US Regular & Certified Mail, No. 9489009000276155081471
28 This 6 day of November, 2020 to:

1 Patti Watson, Ed.D.
2 Address on Record
3 Respondent

4 **COPY** of the foregoing mailed by USPS regular mail
5 This 6 day of November, 2020 to:

6 Lawrence Y. Gee, Esq.
7 310 South Williams Blvd, Suite 185
8 Tucson, AZ 85711
9 Attorney for Respondent

10 **COPY** of the foregoing via email (jeanne.galvin@azag.gov)
11 This 6 day of November, 2020 to:

12 Jeanne M. Galvin
13 Assistant Attorney General
14 2005 North Central Ave. SGD/LES
15 Phoenix, Arizona 85004

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