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## BEFORE THE DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE STATE OF UTAH

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF ROBERT VIRGIL DINDINGER
UTAH LICENSE #8431635-2501
TO PRACTICE AS A PSYCHOLOGIST
IN THE STATE OF UTAH

- WMMSUNUNIFY-LIMITATION STIPULATION AND ORDER

CASE NO. DOPL 2024- 122

ROBERT VIRGIL DINDINGER ("Respondent") and the Division of Professional Licensing of the Department of Commerce of the State of Utah ("Division") stipulate and agree as follows:

- 1. Respondent admits that the Division has jurisdiction over Respondent's licenses to practice psychology in the State of Utah and over the subject matter of this action.
- 2. Respondent acknowledges that Respondent enters into this Stipulation knowingly and voluntarily and that this Stipulation is a limited pre-adjudication agreement.
- 3. Respondent understands that Respondent has the right to be represented by counsel in this matter and Respondent is represented by counsel, Gregory Smith, attorney at law. Respondent's signature below signifies that Respondent has either consulted with his attorney or

waives his right to counsel in this matter.

- 4. Respondent understands that he is entitled to be served with a Petition and Notice of Agency Action and afforded a hearing before the Psychologist Licensing Board ("Board"), or other designated presiding officer, before a final order relating to his license may be entered. Respondent understands that, by signing this document, Respondent knowingly, voluntarily, and intelligently waives the rights to be served with a Petition and Notice of Agency Action and to be afforded a hearing before the Board, including the attendant rights to subpoena and call witnesses to testify on Respondent's behalf, to confront adverse witnesses, to present evidence, and any other rights to which Respondent may be entitled in connection with said hearing.
- 5. Respondent understands that by signing this document, upon approval by the Division Director, this Stipulation will become the order of the Division. Respondent hereby knowingly and intelligently waives the right to all administrative and judicial review as set forth in Utah Code Ann. §§ 63G-4-301 through 63G-4-405, and Utah Administrative Code R1514901 through R151-4-907.
- 6. Respondent acknowledges that this Stipulation and Order, if adopted by the Division Director, will be classified as a public document. The Division may release this Stipulation and Order, as well as other information about this non-disciplinary action against Respondent's license, to other persons and entities.
- 7. Respondent makes no admission of guilt for any unlawful or unprofessional act as defined by state or federal law but agrees that the Division shall make the following findings of fact for purposes of this order:
  - a. Respondent was first licensed to practice as a psychologist in the State of Utah on or about January 2014. Respondent currently holds a probationary license with the Division pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding, entered on February 7, 2023.

- b. Respondent licensing history, including prior disciplinary action, is a matter of record and incorporated herein by reference.
- c. Respondent acknowledges that he is currently under investigation by the Division for unprofessional conduct, including alleged violations of his current probationary license. Respondent and the Division are also aware that there is a pending criminal investigation underway by the Orem Police Department for alleged conduct related to his practice of Psychology.
- 8. Respondent agrees that Respondent's license to practice as a psychologist in the State of Utah shall be immediately limited. Respondent shall not practice in any form or manner as a psychologist, nor will Respondent engage in any other form or description of mental health care or personal counseling with members of the public, including activities described as "life coaching," etc.¹ This limitation shall remain in effect until the allegations underlying any potential investigation, criminal charge, or Division investigation and/or administrative action described above have been resolved and the Division has issued an order or stipulated agreement, approved by the Division Director, lifting the limitation on Respondent's practice.
- 9. Respondent shall renew and maintain an active license during the period of limitation. Respondent shall complete all required continuing education requirements during the period of limitation.
- 10. This Stipulation and Order is not a finding of unprofessional or unlawful conduct, nor is it disciplinary action against Respondent or Respondent's license. The Division may continue to investigate any allegations of unprofessional and unlawful conduct, including the alleged conduct described above, and may take disciplinary administrative action against Respondent's license in the State of Utah, including undertaking emergency proceedings, at any time.

<sup>1</sup> A life coach is not defined by statute and there are no current scope of practice definitions for individuals who engage in the activities identified as life coaching.

- 11. Respondent acknowledges that the Director is not required to accept the terms of this Stipulation and Order and that if the Director does not do so, this Stipulation and the representations contained therein shall be null and void, except that the Division and the Respondent waive any claim of bias or prejudgment they might otherwise have with regard to the Director by virtue of his having reviewed this Stipulation, and this waiver shall survive such nullification.
- 12. This document constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes and cancels any and all prior negotiations, representations, understandings or agreements between the parties regarding the subject of this Stipulation and Order. There are no verbal agreements that modify, interpret, construe, or affect this Stipulation.
- 13. If Respondent violates any term or condition of this Stipulation and Order, the Division may take action against Respondent, including imposing appropriate sanction, in the manner provided by law. Respondent may not construe any action or lack of action from the Orem Police Department as grounds to resume practice. Only an order from the Division may modify this agreement.
- 14. Respondent has read each and every paragraph contained in this Stipulation and Order. Respondent understands each and every paragraph contained in this Stipulation and Order. Respondent has no questions about any paragraph or provision contained in this Stipulation and Order.

(signatures on next page)

DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

RESPONDENT

JANA JOHANSEN
Bureau Manager

DATE: 4/18/2024

SEAN D. REYES UTAH ATTORNEY GENERAL (as to form)

 $_{\mathrm{BY:}}$  Robert E. Steed

ROBERT E. STEED,
Counsel for the Division

DATE: 4/17/2024

## **ORDER**

THE ABOVE LIMITATION STIPULATION, in the matter of ROBERT DINDINGER, is hereby approved by the Division of Professional Licensing, and constitutes my Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this matter. The terms and conditions of the Limitation Stipulation are incorporated herein and constitute my final Order in this case.

DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

MARK B. STEINAGEL
Division Director & DEBORAN BUCKBURN
Division Director

Investigator: Benjamin Baker