

**BEFORE THE MINNESOTA
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY
COMPLAINT RESOLUTION COMMITTEE**

In the Matter of the License of
James Shreffler, Psy.D., L.P.
License Number: LP6416

**AGREEMENT FOR
CORRECTIVE ACTION**

This agreement is entered into by and between James Shreffler, Psy.D., L.P. ("Licensee") and the Complaint Resolution Committee of the Minnesota Board of Psychology ("Committee"), pursuant to the authority of Minn. Stat. § 214.103, subd. 6(a). Licensee and the Committee hereby agree as follows:

FACTS

1. For the purpose of this agreement, the parties agree to the following facts:
 - a. On, or about, June 13, 2019, the Board licensed Licensee to practice psychology in the State of Minnesota.
 - b. Licensee provided psychological services to Client #1 at various times in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021.
 - c. Licensee executed an affidavit, dated November 9, 2020, which was used in a family court matter regarding Client #1. The affidavit made statements that exceeded Licensee's scope as Client #1's individual therapist without appropriately qualifying the conclusions.
2. The Committee concludes that the conduct above constitutes a violation of Minn. R. 7200.5010, subp. 2 (failed to base conclusions on information and procedures sufficient to substantiate those conclusions); Minn. Stat. § 148.941, subd. 2(a)(3) and Minn. R. 7200.5700 (unprofessional conduct).

CORRECTIVE ACTION

3. Licensee agrees to address the conduct referenced in paragraphs 1 and 2 by taking the following corrective action:

a. ***Consultation.*** Licensee shall obtain one-on-one professional consultation from a Minnesota licensed psychologist, to review Licensee's current and past practices related to (1) issues that arose in the case that gave rise to this Agreement, and how they could or should have been addressed; (2) providing therapy to clients with personality disorders; (3) when and whether to offer pro bono services to clients; and (4) when and whether to refer clients to other therapists; and how to apply his knowledge of these issues, and any other issues covered during consultation, to his practice.

Licensee shall submit the *curriculum vitae* of his proposed professional consultant for pre-approval by the Committee within 45 days of the date this Agreement becomes effective. Licensee shall select a consultant with whom he has had no previous personal or professional relationship. The Committee reserves the right to reject the consultant proposed by Licensee. If the Committee rejects the consultant proposed by Licensee, the Committee may require that Licensee submit additional names.

For a period of 12 months, Licensee shall meet with the consultant for a minimum of at least two hours per month.

Consultant Report. At the conclusion of the consultations, Licensee shall have the consultant submit a report to the Board no later than 60 days from the date of the last consultation. The report shall provide and/or address:

1) A statement that the consultant has reviewed this Agreement and any other data deemed relevant by the Committee;

- 2) The dates on which consultations were held with Licensee;
- 3) Licensee's active participation in each consultation;
- 4) The issues discussed in each consultation;
- 5) The consultant's assessment of Licensee's understanding and ability to deal with issues enumerated in paragraph 3.a., above, and Licensee's understanding of how to apply his knowledge of these issues, and any other issues covered during consultation, to his practice;
- 6) The consultant's opinion as to whether Licensee has demonstrated a satisfactory understanding of the issues that gave rise to this Agreement, and whether additional consultations or education is required; and
- 7) Any other information the consultant believes would assist the Board in its ultimate review of this matter.

Self Report. At the conclusion of the consultations, Licensee shall have 30 days to submit a report to the Board himself. The report shall provide and/or address:

- 1) A brief statement of the topics discussed at each consultation session;
- 2) What Licensee has learned from the consultations, including his own statement as to his comprehension and knowledge of the ethical issues related to this case, and related to circumstances where an individual therapist steps into forensic practice;
- 3) A statement as to how Licensee has changed or will change his practice as a result of the knowledge and skills obtained or honed through the consultation; and
- 4) Any other information Licensee believes would assist the Board in its ultimate review of this matter.

b. ***Boundaries Course.*** Within six (6) months of the date of this Agreement, Licensee must complete a one-to-one, individualized boundaries course on professional boundaries taught by a Board-approved licensed psychologist utilizing a curriculum approved by the Board. The course must be a minimum of 12 hours in duration and must address the following topics:

- Boundary issues that arose in the case that gave rise to this Agreement, and how they could or should have been addressed;
- How to avoid forensic conflicts;
- How to avoid bias and overinvolvement with clients; and
- Any other topic deemed relevant by the instructor.

Within 45 days of the date of this Agreement, Licensee must provide the Committee with the *curriculum vitae* of Licensee's proposed instructor, for the Committee's approval. Licensee may also request, from the Committee, a list of pre-approved course instructors for purposes of satisfying this requirement. Any proposed instructor must indicate a willingness to follow the Board's pre-approved boundaries course. All fees for the course must be paid by Licensee. To show satisfactory completion of the Course, Licensee must submit the following:

- 1) *Report on Boundaries Course from Licensee.* Within 45 days of completing the Course, Licensee must submit a written report to the Committee which provides and/or addresses the following:
 - a) The dates Licensee began and completed the Course;
 - b) A brief statement of the topics covered in the Course;
 - c) A detailed discussion of what Licensee has learned from the Course, including demonstrating comprehension and knowledge of the topics reviewed in the Course as well as the various ethical issues encountered in practice, and how this Course will affect Licensee's practice in the future;

- d) A detailed discussion of the violations that occurred, including how Licensee came to violate his professional boundaries, the effects of Licensee's conduct, and how Licensee now believes the violations could have been avoided;
- e) A detailed discussion of the specific ways this course will affect Licensee's practice in the future;
- f) Licensee's reasons for believing he is capable of conducting himself in a fit, competent, and ethical manner in the practice of psychology; and
- g) Any other information Licensee believes would assist the Board in its ultimate review of this matter.

- 2) *Report on Boundaries Course from Instructor.* Within 30 days of Licensee's completion of the Course, Licensee must direct the Course instructor to provide the Board with written documentation that confirms successful completion of the Course. This written documentation must address:
 - a) The extent of Licensee's participation in the Course;
 - b) A description of the curriculum of the course, including a citation to professional materials utilized, the topics covered, and the activities undertaken to effectuate Licensee's learning;
 - c) A description of Licensee's level of engagement in the course and overall effort toward change; and
 - d) The instructor's assessment of Licensee's knowledge obtained from the Course and comprehension of the material issues.

- c. *Continuing Education Course(s).* Within 6 months of the date of this Order, Licensee shall complete no fewer than six continuing education credits on topics related to treating clients with personality disorders (the course must not be focused only on clients with

Dissociative Identity Disorder or Trauma). Licensee shall submit a summary and description of the course and/or courses along with a summary of the instructor(s)'s credentials for pre-approval by the Committee within 45 days of the date this Order becomes effective. The Committee reserves the right to reject the course and/or courses proposed by Licensee. If the Committee rejects the course and/or courses proposed by Licensee, the Committee may require that Licensee submit additional courses.

Licensee's Report. At the conclusion of the course and/or courses, Licensee shall have 30 days to submit a typewritten report to the Committee. The report shall provide and/or address:

- 1) A brief statement of the topics covered;
- 2) What Licensee has learned, including his own statement as to his comprehension and knowledge of the issues that gave rise to this Agreement for Corrective Action;
- 3) A statement as to how Licensee has changed or will change his practice as a result of the knowledge and skills obtained or honed through the course and/or courses, including how his client records are now secured;
- 4) Any other information Licensee believes would assist the Committee in its review of this matter.

4. Licensee shall be responsible for all costs incurred as a result of compliance with this agreement.

5. If any due date required by the Agreement for Corrective Action is not met, the Committee may fine Licensee \$100 per violation. Licensee shall pay the fine and correct the violation within five days after service on Licensee of a demand for payment and correction. If Licensee fails to do so, the Committee may impose additional fines not to exceed \$500 per violation. The total of all fines may not exceed \$5,000. Licensee waives the right to seek review of the imposition of these fines under the Administrative Procedure Act, by *writ of certiorari* under

Minn. Stat. § 480A.06, by application to the Board, or otherwise. Neither the imposition of fines nor correction of the violation will deprive the Board of the right to impose additional discipline based on the violation.

6. No condition imposed as a remedy by this Agreement for Corrective Action shall be used as a continuing education activity for the purpose of renewal of Licensee's license to practice psychology, unless it is specifically stated in this Agreement for Corrective Action that the condition may be used for this purpose.

OTHER INFORMATION

7. Licensee understands that this agreement does not constitute disciplinary action.

8. Upon Licensee's satisfactory completion of the corrective action referenced above, the Committee agrees to dismiss the complaint(s) referenced in paragraph 1. Licensee agrees that the Committee shall be the sole judge of satisfactory completion. Licensee understands and further agrees that if, after dismissal, the Committee receives additional complaints similar to the facts in paragraph 1, the Committee may reopen the dismissed complaint(s).

9. If Licensee fails to complete the corrective action satisfactorily, or if the Committee receives additional complaints similar to the facts described in paragraph 1, the Committee may, at its discretion, reopen the investigation and proceed according to the Board's practice act and Minn. Stat. chs. 214 and 14. Licensee agrees that the Committee will be the sole judge of satisfactory completion. Licensee understands and further agrees that if, after dismissal, the Committee receives additional complaints similar to that referenced in the Facts section, the Committee may reopen the dismissed complaint. In any subsequent proceeding, the Committee may use as proof of the facts of paragraph 1 Licensee's agreements herein. Licensee agrees that failure to complete corrective action satisfactorily constitutes failure to cooperate under Minn. Stat. § 148.941, subd. 4, and may subject Licensee to disciplinary action by the Board.

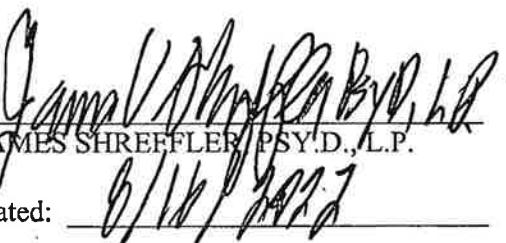
10. Licensee has been advised by Committee representatives that Licensee may choose to be represented by legal counsel in this matter. Licensee is represented by Tom Pearson, Esq. The Committee is represented by Nicholas Lienesch, Assistant Attorney General.

11. This agreement shall become effective upon execution by the Committee and shall remain in effect until the Committee dismisses the complaint, unless the Committee receives additional information that renders corrective action inappropriate. Upon receipt of such information, the Committee may, at its discretion, proceed according to the Board's practice act and Minn. Stat. chs. 214 and 14.

12. Licensee understands and acknowledges that this agreement and any letter of dismissal are classified as public data.

13. Licensee hereby acknowledges having read and understood this agreement and having voluntarily entered into it. This agreement contains the entire agreement between the Committee and Licensee, there being no other agreement of any kind, verbal or otherwise, which varies the terms of this agreement.

LICENSEE


JAMES SHREEFLER, PSY.D., L.P.

Dated: 6/16/2022

MINNESOTA BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY
COMPLAINT RESOLUTION COMMITTEE


For the Committee

Dated: 8-19-2022