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BEFORE THE
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY
STATE OF OREGON

In the Matter of the Conduct of:) AGENCY NO: OBOP #2020-001
)
CRAIG CHILDRESS, PSY.D.) DEFAULT ORDER
RESPONDENT)

1.

The Board of Psychology (Board) is the state agency responsible for licensing and disciplining psychologists, and for regulating the practice of psychology in the State of Oregon. The Board is also responsible for enforcing the laws against the unlicensed practice of psychology in the State of Oregon. Craig Childress, Psy.D. (Respondent) is not licensed by the Board to practice psychology in the State of Oregon.

2.

On July 24, 2020, the Board issued a Notice of Intent to Impose Civil Penalty against Respondent, in which the Board proposed imposing a civil penalty of \$7,500 against Respondent, pursuant to ORS 675.010(4), ORS 675.020(1)(a), (b), and (2); ORS 675.070(1)(h) and ORS 675.070(3)(b), for engaging in the unlicensed practice of psychology in Oregon by offering or rendering services included in the practice of psychology and representing himself to be a psychologist. The Board’s Notice informed Respondent that if he failed to request a hearing within thirty (30) days or failed to appear at a scheduled hearing, the Board may issue a final order by default. Respondent did not respond to this Notice and did not request a hearing. As a result, Respondent now stands in default. The Board elects in this case to designate the record of proceedings to date, which consists of Respondent’s file with the Board, as the record for purposes of proving a prima facie case, pursuant to ORS 183.417(4).

FINDINGS OF FACT

Respondent's acts and conduct that form the basis for the Board's action are described below:

Respondent is licensed to practice psychology in the State of California. Respondent provided professional services as a consultant for the Conscious Co-Parenting Institute (CCPI), which advertises that it provides "innovative strategies and solutions for parents and children to stay connected during a high-conflict divorce or separation." In response to this investigation, Respondent asserts that he was provided and relied upon a compiled data profile from the "Custody Resolution Method" (CRM). Respondent reviewed the raw data, did not independently verify the accuracy of the data, and produced a consultation report on August 20, 2019 in regard to Patient A, Patient B and Patient C that Respondent states was written for CRM. Respondent never met with Patient A, B or C.¹ Respondent's written report contains a number of observations and diagnostic conclusions indicative of the practice of psychology, as defined by ORS 675.010(4), to include rendering or offering to render "supervision, consultation, evaluation or therapy services to individuals, groups or organizations for the purpose of diagnosing or treating behavioral, emotional or mental disorders", to include the following:

- Of concern in this family is that the mother is manipulating incorporating the child, ***, into a cross-generational coalition against the father, thereby inflicting emotional hurt and suffering on the (ex-spouse) father for the failed marriage and divorce, using the child as a weapon. The three diagnostic symptoms identifying the use of the child as a weapon of spousal revenge are:²

Diagnostic Indicator 1: Attachment Suppression.

Diagnostic Indicator 2: Personality Disorder Traits;

¹ Patients A, B and C were resident of Oregon, and were physically present in Oregon during the time the data for the report was gathered and Respondent's report was prepared.

² Only the captions without the detailed explanations are stated in this notice.

1 Diagnostic Indicator 3: Persecutory Delusion.

- 2 • If these symptoms are confirmed by a professional mental health assessment, then
3 the DSM – 5 diagnosis for the child would be:

4 Child: 309.4 Adjustment Disorder

5 V61.20 Parent-Child Relational Problem

6 V61.29 Child Affected by Parental Relationship Distress

7 V995.51 Child Psychological Abuse. Confirmed (pathogenic parenting)

- 8 • In addition, the report made reference to “Father’s Bipolar Disorder” and made
9 reference to a possible risk assessment for child abuse as follows: “There are no
10 indicators of child abuse threat posed to the child in the reviewed material, and no
11 child protection considerations are evident regarding the father’s parenting
12 practices.”

13 Respondent’s report contains some disclaimers, such as: “Archival data cannot make a diagnosis,
14 only clinical interviews informed by data can make a diagnosis.” This disclaimer, however,
15 which is representative of others in the report, does not absolve Respondent from responsibility
16 for the content of his report that contains diagnoses pertaining to Oregon patients.

17 4.

18 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

19 Respondent’s above described conduct violated the following statutes and Board rules, as
20 set forth below:

21 4.1 Respondent’s above described conduct violated ORS 675.020(1)(a), in that he
22 engaged in the unlicensed practice of psychology, as defined by ORS 675.010(4) by rendering or
23 offering consultation, evaluation or therapy services to individuals (Patients A, B and C) or
24 groups for the purpose of diagnosing or treating behavioral, emotional or mental disorders.

25 4.2 Respondent’s above described conduct also violated ORS 675.020(1)(b), as
26 defined by ORS 675.020(2), in that in the report dated August 20, 2019, Respondent identified

1 himself as a psychologist for a report pertaining to Oregon patients, as follows:

2 C.A. Childress, Psy.D.

3 Licensed Clinical Psychologist, PSY 18857

4 In addition, the heading for the report reads as follows: "Consultation Report: Custody
5 Resolution Method (**** Family)." Finally, the report was signed by Respondent with the
6 following title under his name: "Clinical Psychologist, PSY 18857." By making these
7 representations, Respondent represented himself to be a psychologist in the context of providing
8 services included in the practice of psychology in regard to subjects of his report that were
9 Oregon residents and were located in Oregon.

10 5.

11 ORDER

12 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT Craig Childress, Psy.D. (Respondent), must pay a civil
13 penalty of \$7,500 within 90 days from the signing of this Order. This Order is a public record and is
14 a disciplinary action that is reportable to the National Data Bank.

15 DATED this 14th day of September, 2020.

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BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY
State of Oregon

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CLIFFORD JOHANNSEN, Ph.D.
Board Chair

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Right to Judicial Review

NOTICE: You are entitled to judicial review of this Order. Judicial review may be obtained by filing a petition for review with the Oregon Court of Appeals within 60 days after the final order is served upon you. See ORS 183.482. If this Order was personally delivered to you, the date of service is the day it was mailed, not the day you received it. If you do not file a petition for judicial review within the 60 days' time period, you will lose your right to appeal.

1 2019 in regard to Patient A, Patient B and Patient C that Licensee states was written for CRM.
2 Licensee never met with Patient A, B or C.¹ Licensee’s written report contains a number of
3 observations and diagnostic conclusions indicative of the practice of psychology, as defined by
4 ORS 675.010(4), to include rendering or offering to render “supervision, consultation, evaluation
5 or therapy services to individuals, groups or organizations for the purpose of diagnosing or
6 treating behavioral, emotional or mental disorders”, to include the following:

- 7 • Of concern in this family is that the mother is manipulating incorporating the
8 child, ***, into a cross-generational coalition against the father, thereby inflicting
9 emotional hurt and suffering on the (ex-spouse) father for the failed marriage and
10 divorce, using the child as a weapon. The three diagnostic symptoms identifying
11 the use of the child as a weapon of spousal revenge are:²

12 Diagnostic Indicator 1: Attachment Suppression.

13 Diagnostic Indicator 2: Personality Disorder Traits;

14 Diagnostic Indicator 3: Persecutory Delusion.

- 15 • If these symptoms are confirmed by a professional mental health assessment, then
16 the DSM – 5 diagnosis for the child would be:

17 Child: 309.4 Adjustment Disorder

18 V61.20 Parent-Child Relational Problem

19 V61.29 Child Affected by Parental Relationship Distress

20 V995.51 Child Psychological Abuse. Confirmed (pathogenic parenting)

- 21 • In addition, the report made reference to “Father’s Bipolar Disorder” and made
22 reference to a possible risk assessment for child abuse as follows: “There are no
23 indicators of child abuse threat posed to the child in the reviewed material, and no
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26 ¹ Patients A, B and C were resident of Oregon, and were physically present in Oregon during the time the data for the report was gathered and Respondent’s report was prepared.

² Only the captions without the detailed explanations are stated in this notice.

1 child protection considerations are evident regarding the father’s parenting
2 practices.”

3 Respondent’s report contains some disclaimers, such as: “Archival data cannot make a diagnosis,
4 only clinical interviews informed by data can make a diagnosis.” This disclaimer, however,
5 which is representative of others in the report, does not absolve Respondent from responsibility
6 for the content of his report that contains diagnoses pertaining to Oregon patients.

7 2.2 Respondent’s above described conduct violated ORS 675.020(1)(a), in that he
8 engaged in the unlicensed practice of psychology, as defined by ORS 675.010(4) by rendering or
9 offering consultation, evaluation or therapy services to individuals (Patients A, B and C) or
10 groups for the purpose of diagnosing or treating behavioral, emotional or mental disorders.

11 2.3 Respondent’s above described conduct also violated ORS 675.020(1)(b), as
12 defined by ORS 675.020(2), in that in the report dated August 20, 2019, Licensee identified
13 himself as a psychologist for a report pertaining to Oregon patients, as follows:

14 C.A. Childress, Psy.D.

15 Licensed Clinical Psychologist, PSY 18857

16 In addition, the heading for the report reads as follows: “Consultation Report: Custody
17 Resolution Method (**** Family).” Finally, the report was signed by Respondent with the
18 following title under his name: “Clinical Psychologist, PSY 18857.” By making these
19 representations, Licensee represented himself to be a psychologist in the context of providing
20 services included in the practice of psychology in regard to subjects of his report that were
21 Oregon residents and were located in Oregon.

22 3.

23 The Board has authority to impose a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 against Respondent
24 for practicing psychology without a license, pursuant to ORS 675.020(1)(a) and (b), and (2),
25 ORS 675.070(1)(h), and ORS 675.070(3)(b).

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1 4.

2 **NOTICE OF RIGHT TO REQUEST A HEARING**

3 Respondent has the right, if Respondent requests, to have a formal contested case hearing
4 before an Administrative Law Judge to contest the matter set out above, as provided by Oregon
5 Revised Statutes 183.310 to 183.497. At the hearing, Respondent may be represented by an
6 attorney and subpoena and cross-examine witnesses. If Respondent requests a hearing, the
7 request must be made in writing to the Board, must be received by the Board within thirty (30)
8 days from the mailing of this notice, and must be accompanied by a written answer to the
9 charges contained in this notice. Before commencement of the hearing, Respondent will be
10 given information on the procedures, right of representation and other rights of parties relating to
11 the conduct of the hearing as required under ORS 183.413-415.

12 5.

13 **NOTICE TO ACTIVE DUTY SERVICEMEMBERS**

14 Active duty servicemembers have a right to stay these proceedings under the federal
15 Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. For more information, contact the Oregon State Bar at 800-
16 452-8260, the Oregon Military Department at 800-452-7500, or the nearest United States Armed
17 Forces Legal Assistance Office through <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil>.

18 6.

19 **NOTICE OF CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO FILE AN ANSWER**

20 If Respondent fails to request a hearing within 30 days, or fails to appear at the hearing as
21 scheduled, the Board may issue a final order by default and impose the above sanctions against
22 Respondent. Respondent's submissions to the Board to-date regarding the subject of this case and all
23 information in the Board's files relevant to the subject of this case automatically become part of the

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1 evidentiary record of this Board action upon default for the purpose of proving a *prima facie* case.
2 ORS 183.417(4).

3 DATED this 22nd day of July, 2020.

4 BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY
5 State of Oregon

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7 Charles Hill
8 Executive Director
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