


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FILED
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY
SACRAMENTO 12-15-17
BY 

8 *Attorneys for Complainant*

9
10 **BEFORE THE**
11 **BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY**
12 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

13 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 600-2015-000794

14 **JEREMY TRIMBLE, PSY.D.**
15 **P. O. Box 4994**
Oceanside, CA 92052

A C C U S A T I O N

16 **Psychologist License No. PSY23293**

17 Respondent.

18
19 Complainant alleges:

20 **PARTIES**

21 1. Antonette Sorrick (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity
22 as the Executive Officer of the Board of Psychology, Department of Consumer Affairs (Board).

23 2. On or about January 21, 2010, the Board issued Psychologist License No. PSY23293
24 to Jeremy Trimble, Psy.D. (Respondent). The Psychologist License was in full force and effect at
25 all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on November 30, 2019, unless
26 renewed. On or about December 7, 2017, following a noticed hearing, an Interim Order of
27 Suspension was issued immediately suspending Psychologist License No. PSY23293, and
28 prohibiting Respondent from practicing psychology in the State of California. As a result,

1 Respondent remains suspended from the practice of psychology as of the date of the filing of this
2 Accusation.

3 JURISDICTION

4 3. This Accusation is brought before the Board, under the authority of the following
5 laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise
6 indicated.

7 4. Section 2960 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

8 "The board may refuse to issue any registration or license, or may issue a
9 registration or license with terms and conditions, or may suspend or revoke the
10 registration or license of any registrant or licensee if the applicant, registrant, or
11 licensee has been guilty of unprofessional conduct. Unprofessional conduct shall
12 include, but not be limited to:

13 "...

14 "(h) Willful, unauthorized communication of information received in
15 professional confidence.

16 "(i) Violating any rule of professional conduct promulgated by the board
17 and set forth in regulations duly adopted under this chapter.

18 "(j) Being grossly negligent in the practice of his or her profession.

19 "(k) Violating any of the provisions of this chapter or regulations duly
20 adopted thereunder.

21 "...

22 "(n) The commission of any dishonest, corrupt, or fraudulent act.

23 "...

24 "(r) Repeated acts of negligence."

25 5. Section 2936 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

26 "The board shall adopt a program of consumer and professional education in
27 matters relevant to the ethical practice of psychology. The board shall establish as
28 its standards of ethical conduct relating to the practice of psychology, the 'Ethical

1 Principles and Code of Conduct' published by the American Psychological
2 Association (APA). Those standards shall be applied by the board as the accepted
3 standard of care in all licensing examination development and in all board
4 enforcement policies and disciplinary case evaluations..."

5 6. The American Psychological Association's "Ethical Principles of Psychologists and
6 Code of Conduct" (2002) (Effective date June 1, 2003) [APA Ethical Principles] section 2.06,
7 "Personal Problems and Conflicts states:

8 "(a) Psychologists refrain from initiating an activity when they know or should know
9 that there is a substantial likelihood that their personal problems will prevent them from
10 performing their work-related activities in a competent manner.

11 "(b) When psychologists become aware of personal problems that may interfere with
12 their performing work-related duties adequately, they take appropriate measures, such as
13 obtaining professional consultation or assistance, and determine whether they should limit,
14 suspend, or terminate their work-related duties."

15 7. APA Ethical Principles section 3.04, "Avoid Harm," states:

16 "Psychologists take reasonable steps to avoid harming their clients/patients, students,
17 supervisees, research participants, organizational clients, and others with whom they work,
18 and to minimize harm where it is foreseeable and unavoidable."

19 8. APA Ethical Principles section 3.05, "Multiple Relationships," states:

20 "(a) A multiple relationship occurs when a psychologist is in a professional role with
21 a person and (1) at the same time is in another role with the same person, (2) at the same
22 time is in a relationship with a person closely associated with or related to the person with
23 whom the psychologist has the professional relationship, or (3) promises to enter into
24 another relationship in the future with the person or a person closely associated with or
25 related to the person.

26 "A psychologist refrains from entering into a multiple relationship if the multiple
27 relationship could reasonably be expected to impair the psychologist's objectivity,
28 competence or effectiveness in performing his or her functions as a psychologist, or

1 otherwise risks exploitation or harm to the person with whom the professional relationship
2 exists.

3 “Multiple relationships that would not reasonably be expected to cause impairment or
4 risk exploitation or harm are not unethical.

5 “(b) If a psychologist finds that, due to unforeseen factors, a potentially harmful
6 multiple relationship has arisen, the psychologist takes reasonable steps to resolve it with
7 due regard for the best interests of the affected person and maximal compliance with the
8 Ethics Code.

9 “When psychologists are required by law, institutional policy, or extraordinary
10 circumstances to serve in more than one role in judicial or administrative proceedings, at
11 the outset they clarify role expectations and the extent of confidentiality and thereafter as
12 changes occur.”

13 9. APA Ethical Principles section 3.06, “Conflict of Interest,” states:

14 “Psychologists refrain from taking on a professional role when personal, scientific,
15 professional, legal, financial, or other interests or relationships could reasonably be
16 expected to (1) impair their objectivity, competence, or effectiveness in performing their
17 functions as psychologists or (2) expose the person or organization with whom the
18 professional relationship exists to harm or exploitation.”

19 10. APA Ethical Principles section 3.08, “Exploitative Relationships,” states,

20 “Psychologists do not exploit persons over whom they have supervisory, evaluative
21 or other authority such as clients/patients, students, supervisees, research participants and
22 employees.”

23 11. APA Ethical Principles section 4.01 “Maintaining Confidentiality,” provides:

24 “Psychologists have a primary obligation and take reasonable precautions to protect
25 confidential information obtained through or stored in any medium, recognizing that the
26 extent and limits of confidentiality may be regulated by law or established by institutional
27 rules or professional or scientific relationship.”

28 ///

1 12. APA Ethical Principles section 4.05 "Disclosures," provides:

2 "(a) Psychologists may disclose confidential information with the appropriate consent
3 of the organizational client, the individual client/patient or another legally authorized
4 person on behalf of the client/patient unless prohibited by law.

5 "(b) Psychologists disclose confidential information without the consent of the
6 individual only as mandated by law, or where permitted by law for a valid purpose such as
7 to (1) provide needed professional services; (2) obtain appropriate professional
8 consultations; (3) protect the client/patient, psychologist, or others from harm; or (4) obtain
9 payment for services from a client/patient, in which instance disclosure is limited to the
10 minimum that is necessary to achieve the purpose."

11 COST RECOVERY

12 13. Section 2964.6 of the Code states:

13 "An administrative disciplinary decision that imposes terms of probation may
14 include, among other things, a requirement that the licensee who is being placed on
15 probation pay the monetary costs associated with monitoring the probation."

16 FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

17 (Dishonest, Corrupt, or Fraudulent Acts)

18 14. Respondent has subjected his Psychologist License No. PSY23293 to disciplinary
19 action under section 2960, as defined by section 2960, subdivision (n), of the Code, in that he has
20 committed a dishonest, corrupt, or fraudulent act, as more particularly alleged hereinafter:

21 15. From in or around July 2013, through in or around July 2015, Respondent was
22 employed as a contract psychologist at Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility (RJD), in San
23 Diego, CA.

24 16. As part of his clearance to work at RJD, on or about April 8, 2013, Respondent was
25 provided and signed a document entitled, "Primary Laws, Rules and Regulations Regarding
26 Conduct and Association with State Prison Inmates." This document provided, in part, that:

27 "It is illegal to bring...drugs...on [California Department of Corrections]
28 institutions/facilities or camp premises. It is illegal to give prison inmates...narcotics

1 or any drug or drug paraphernalia, including cocaine or marijuana ... It is also illegal
2 to give or receive any type of gift and/or gratuities from prison inmates.”

3 17. While working at RJD, Respondent was considered a “floating” psychologist,
4 providing mental health treatment to inmate patients in various units, including, Administrative
5 Segregation, Crisis Bed, Assessment, and Enhanced Out Patient Units. As a “floater,”
6 Respondent was responsible for conducting group therapy sessions, and individual therapeutic
7 sessions with inmates as needed.

8 18. In or around May 2015, while providing individual therapy to an inmate patient at
9 RJD, the patient implied that he knew Respondent was in a bad financial situation, and asked him
10 if he needed help. Respondent initially dismissed the offer. A few weeks later, during another
11 individual therapy session, the patient asked Respondent again if he needed financial help. This
12 time, Respondent asked the inmate what it would entail. The inmate eventually told Respondent
13 that he would need to speak with inmate Patient A¹ to get the details.

14 19. In or around May 2015, Respondent walked by Patient A’s cell and asked him if he
15 needed any help. Patient A informed Respondent that he was feeling suicidal, and asked to be
16 taken out of his cell for an individual therapy session. Respondent proceeded to meet with Patient
17 A, a 41-year-old male with a history of amphetamine abuse, suicidality, depression, and auditory
18 and visual hallucinations. During the session, the conversation eventually turned to Respondent’s
19 financial situation, and Respondent agreed to bring cell phones, tobacco, and marijuana into the
20 prison, in exchange for payment of \$4,000.00 per month.

21 20. Sometime after meeting with Patient A, Respondent smuggled three (3) cell phones
22 into RJD, and provided them to different inmates. Sometime thereafter, Respondent met with an
23 unknown female for a prearranged meeting outside of RJD, and was paid \$200.00 by the female
24 for smuggling the cell phones into RJD.

25 21. Sometime after he smuggled the cell phones into RJD, Respondent spoke with a
26 different inmate and agreed to smuggle drugs over from Mexico and into RJD.

27 ¹ To protect the privacy of all patients involved, patient names have not been included in this
28 pleading. Respondent is aware of the identity of the patients referred to herein.

1 22. On or about June 6, 2015, Respondent ran a group therapy session attended by Patient
2 A.

3 23. On or about June 7, 2015, Respondent ran a group therapy session attended by Patient
4 A.

5 24. On or about June 13, 2015, Respondent ran a group therapy session attended by
6 Patient A.

7 25. On or about June 20, 2015, Respondent ran a group therapy session attended by
8 Patient A.

9 26. On or about June 21, 2015, Respondent came to work at RJD at approximately 8:02
10 a.m. Sometime thereafter, Respondent left work and crossed the United States border into
11 Mexico, for a prearranged meeting with a male, who Respondent understood to be Patient A's
12 brother. Respondent watched the male wrap approximately forty (40) grams of
13 methamphetamine into a tight bindle. The male handed Respondent the bindle, and Respondent
14 inserted it into his rectum. Respondent then walked across the border into the United States at the
15 Otay Mesa Port of Entry at approximately 12:41 p.m., with the methamphetamine in his rectum.
16 Respondent then returned to RJD at approximately 3:30 p.m. and, after removing the bindle of
17 methamphetamine from his rectum, provided the bindle to Patient A through an opening on the
18 door to his cell.

19 27. Respondent filled out his RJD timecard for June 21, 2015, indicating that he worked
20 from 8:02 a.m. to 4:11 p.m., and did not mention leaving the facility for any purpose throughout
21 the day.

22 28. On or about June 27, 2015, Respondent ran a group therapy session attended by
23 Patient A.

24 29. On or about June 29, 2015, Patient A was observed lying on the ground against his
25 cell door, unresponsive, and shaking vigorously. Patient A was transported to the medical unit,
26 where it was determined he had overdosed on methamphetamine in an attempt to commit suicide.

27 30. On or about July 17, 2015, after an internal investigation at RJD, Respondent agreed
28 to be interviewed by an Investigative Services Unit Officer. This interview was recorded with

1 Respondent's knowledge and consent. Respondent did not obtain consent from any of his
2 patients prior to the interview. Throughout this interview, Respondent revealed the identities of
3 multiple inmate patients, and recounted his interactions with his patients that eventually led to
4 him bringing contraband into RJD. Shortly thereafter, Respondent was terminated from his
5 employment at RJD.

6 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

7 **(Gross Negligence)**

8 31. Respondent has further subjected his Psychologist License No. PSY23293 to
9 disciplinary action under section 2960, as defined by section 2960, subdivision (j), of the Code, in
10 that he was grossly negligent in the practice of his profession, as more particularly alleged
11 hereinafter:

12 (a) Paragraphs 14 through 30, above, are hereby incorporated by reference and
13 realleged as if fully set forth herein.

14 (b) Respondent provided cell phones to inmate patients;

15 (c) Respondent provided tobacco to inmate patients;

16 (d) Respondent provided methamphetamine to inmate Patient A.

17 **THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

18 **(Repeated Negligent Acts)**

19 32. Respondent has further subjected his Psychologist License No. PSY23293 to
20 disciplinary action under section 2960, as defined by section 2960, subdivision (r), of the Code, in
21 that he engaged in repeated negligent acts in the practice of his profession, as more particularly
22 alleged in paragraphs 14 through 31, above, which are hereby incorporated by reference and
23 realleged as if fully set forth herein.

24 **FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

25 **(Willful, Unauthorized Communication of Information Received in Professional**
26 **Confidence)**

27 33. Respondent has further subjected his Psychologist License No. PSY23293 to
28 disciplinary action under section 2960, subdivision (h), of the Code, in that he engaged in the

1 willful, unauthorized communication of information received in professional confidence, as more
2 particularly alleged in paragraphs 14 through 31, above, which are hereby incorporated by
3 reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

4 **FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

5 **(Violating Ethical Standards)**

6 34. Respondent has further subjected his Psychologist License No. PSY23293 to
7 disciplinary action under section 2960, as defined by section 2960, subdivisions (i) and (k), and
8 section 2936, of the Code, in that he has violated the standards of ethical conduct relating to the
9 practice of psychology established by the APA. The circumstances are as follows:

10 (a) Paragraphs 14 through 33, above, are hereby incorporated by reference
11 as if fully set forth herein.

12 (b) Respondent violated APA Ethical Principles section 2.06, "Personal
13 Problems and Conflicts," by allowing his personal financial situation lead him to
14 providing contraband to his patients in RJD in exchange for money.

15 (c) Respondent violated APA Ethical Principles section 3.04, "Avoid Harm," by
16 providing methamphetamine to Patient A.

17 (d) Respondent violated APA Ethical Principles section 3.05, "Multiple
18 Relationships," by providing contraband to his patients in RJD in exchange for money.

19 (e) Respondent violated APA Ethical Principles section 3.06, "Conflict of
20 Interest," by providing contraband to his patients in RJD in exchange for money.

21 (f) Respondent violated APA Ethical Principles section 3.08, "Exploitative
22 Relationships," by providing contraband to his patients in RJD in exchange for money.

23 (g) Respondent violated APA Ethical Principles section 4.01 "Maintaining
24 Confidentiality," by revealing the identities and his interactions with various inmate
25 patients during his interview with an Investigative Services Unit Officer at RJD, without
26 first obtaining consent from the patients.

27 (h) Respondent violated APA Ethical Principles section 4.05 "Disclosures," by
28 revealing the identities and his interactions with various inmate patients during his

1 interview with an Investigative Services Unit Officer at RJD, without first obtaining
2 consent from the patients.

3 **PRAYER**

4 WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged,
5 and that following the hearing, the Board of Psychology issue a decision:

- 6 1. Revoking or suspending Psychologist License No. PSY23293, issued to Respondent,
7 Jeremy Trimble, Psy.D.;
- 8 2. Ordering Respondent Jeremy Trimble, Psy.D. to pay the Board of Psychology the
9 reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, and, if placed on probation, the
10 costs of probation monitoring; and,
- 11 3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

12
13 DATED: 12-15-17


14 ANTONETTE SORRICK
15 Executive Officer
16 Board of Psychology
17 Department of Consumer Affairs
18 State of California
19 Complainant

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