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8 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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

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**

**STIPULATED SURRENDER OF**  
**LICENSE AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

16 **Psychologist License No. PSY23293**

17 Respondent.

18  
19 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-  
20 entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:

21 **PARTIES**

22 1. Antonette Sorrick (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of the Board of Psychology  
23 (Board). She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in this matter by  
24 Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by Karolyn M. Westfall, Deputy  
25 Attorney General.

26 2. Jeremy Trimble, Psy.D. (Respondent) is representing himself in this proceeding and  
27 has chosen not to exercise his right to be represented by counsel.

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1 **CULPABILITY**

2 8. Respondent agrees that, at an administrative hearing, complainant could establish a  
3 *prima facie* case with respect to the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 600-  
4 2015-000794, and that he has thereby subjected his Psychologist License No. PSY23293 to  
5 disciplinary action. Respondent further agrees to be bound by the Board's imposition of  
6 discipline as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

7 9. Respondent further agrees that if an accusation is filed against him before the Board,  
8 or in any other proceeding before the Board, all of the charges and allegations contained in  
9 Accusation No. 600-2015-000794 shall be deemed true, correct, and fully admitted by  
10 Respondent for purposes of any such proceeding or any other licensing proceeding involving  
11 Respondent in the State of California.

12 10. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation, he enables the Board to issue  
13 an order accepting the surrender of his Psychologist License without further process.

14 **RESERVATION**

15 11. The admissions made by Respondent herein are only for the purposes of this  
16 proceeding, or any other proceedings in which the Board or other professional licensing agency is  
17 involved, and shall not be admissible in any other criminal or civil proceeding.

18 **CONTINGENCY**

19 12. This Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be subject to the  
20 approval of the Board. The parties agree that this Stipulated Surrender of License and  
21 Disciplinary Order shall be submitted to the Board for consideration in the above-entitled matter  
22 and, further, that the Board shall have a reasonable period of time in which to consider and act on  
23 this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order after receiving it. By signing this  
24 stipulation, Respondent fully understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or  
25 seek to rescind this stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it.

26 13. The parties agree that this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order  
27 shall be null and void and not binding upon the parties unless approved and adopted by the Board,  
28 except for this paragraph, which shall remain in full force and effect. Respondent fully

1 understands and agrees that in deciding whether or not to approve and adopt this Stipulated  
2 Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, the Board may receive oral and written  
3 communications from its staff and/or the Attorney General's Office. Communications pursuant  
4 to this paragraph shall not disqualify the Executive Officer, the Board, any member thereof,  
5 and/or any other person from future participation in this or any other matter affecting or involving  
6 Respondent. In the event that the Board does not approve and adopt this Stipulated Surrender of  
7 License and Disciplinary Order, with the exception of this paragraph, it shall not become  
8 effective, shall be of no evidentiary value whatsoever, and shall not be relied upon or introduced  
9 in any disciplinary action by either party hereto. Respondent further agrees that should this  
10 Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order be rejected for any reason by the Board,  
11 Respondent will assert no claim that the Executive Officer, the Board, or any member thereof,  
12 was prejudiced by its/his/her review, discussion and/or consideration of this Stipulated Surrender  
13 of License and Disciplinary Order or of any matter or matters related hereto.

#### 14 **ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS**

15 14. This Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order is intended by the parties  
16 herein to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final and exclusive embodiment of  
17 the agreements of the parties in the above-entitled matter.

18 15. The parties agree that copies of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary  
19 Order, including copies of the signatures of the parties, may be used in lieu of original documents  
20 and signatures and, further, that such copies shall have the same force and effect as originals.

21 16. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree the  
22 Board may, without further notice to or opportunity to be heard by Respondent, issue and enter  
23 the following Disciplinary Order:

#### 24 **ORDER**

25 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Psychologist License No. PSY23293, issued to  
26 Respondent Jeremy Trimble, Psy.D., is surrendered and accepted by the Board of Psychology.

27 1. The surrender of Respondent's Psychologist License and the acceptance of the  
28 surrendered license by the Board shall constitute the imposition of discipline against Respondent.

1 This stipulation constitutes a record of the discipline and shall become a part of Respondent's  
2 license history with the Board of Psychology.

3 2. Respondent shall lose all rights and privileges as a psychologist in California as of the  
4 effective date of the Board's Decision and Order.

5 3. Respondent shall cause to be delivered to the Board his pocket license and, if one was  
6 issued, his wall certificate on or before the effective date of the Decision and Order.

7 4. If Respondent ever files an application for licensure or a petition for reinstatement in  
8 the State of California, the Board shall treat it as a petition for reinstatement. Respondent must  
9 comply with all the laws, regulations and procedures for reinstatement of a revoked or  
10 surrendered license in effect at the time the petition is filed, and all of the charges and allegations  
11 contained in Accusation No. 600-2015-000794 shall be deemed to be true, correct and admitted  
12 by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the petition.

13 5. If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for a new license or certification, or  
14 petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care licensing agency in the State of  
15 California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 600-2015-000794 shall  
16 be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of  
17 Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.

18 6. Respondent may not petition for reinstatement of a revoked or surrendered  
19 license/registration for three years from the effective date of this Decision. If the Board grants  
20 future reinstatement, Respondent agrees to reimburse the Board for its costs of investigation and  
21 enforcement of this matter in the amount of \$15,542.24, payable to the Board prior to the  
22 effective date of such reinstatement Decision.

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**ACCEPTANCE**

I have carefully read the Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Psychologist License. I enter into this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Psychology.

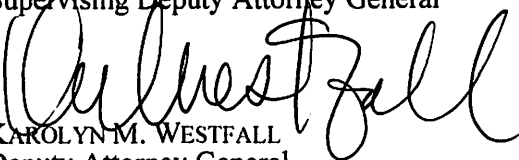
DATED: 2-16-18   
JEREMY TRIMBLE, PSY.D.  
*Respondent*

**ENDORSEMENT**

The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board of Psychology of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Dated: 2/21/18

Respectfully submitted,  
XAVIER BECERRA  
Attorney General of California  
ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

  
KAROLYN M. WESTFALL  
Deputy Attorney General  
*Attorneys for Complainant*

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**Exhibit A**

**Accusation No. 600-2015-000794**



1 XAVIER BECERRA  
Attorney General of California  
2 ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ  
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8 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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

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 A<sup>1</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup> 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

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

PRAYER

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

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

DATED: 12-15-17

  
ANTONETTE SORRICK  
Executive Officer  
Board of Psychology  
Department of Consumer Affairs  
State of California  
*Complainant*

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