

COMPLAINT NO. 2023-00350

IN THE MATTER OF

JAMES WESLEY MANUEL PSY.D.

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BEFORE THE TEXAS BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

THE TEXAS STATE BOARD
OF EXAMINERS OF
PSYCHOLOGISTS

AGREED ORDER

Pursuant to its authority under §507.305 of the Texas Occupations Code, §2001.056 of the Government Code, and 22 Texas Administrative Code §884.12(e), the Executive Director for the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council ("Council") hereby approves, ratifies, and enters this Agreed Order with the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order of Council, which have been approved and accepted by **James Wesley Manuel** ("Respondent") and which constitutes a full settlement and compromise of the complaint currently pending against Respondent before the Council in the above-referenced and numbered matter.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent is licensed as a Psychologist (#34502) in the State of Texas and is, therefore, subject to the jurisdiction of the Council.
2. On June 6, 2016, at the request of the Social Security Administration, Respondent performed an independent psychological evaluation of a subject ("Complainant").
3. From 2016 to 2020, Respondent met with Complainant several times and engaged in sexual conduct.
4. On November 4, 2022, Complainant filed a civil claim against Respondent and Respondent's company, Agape Psychological Services ("Agape") alleging Respondent abused his position as a psychologist to manipulate client into a sexually exploitive relationship which caused Complainant to suffer severe emotional injuries. Respondent failed to report this civil action to the Council within thirty days of either filing or service of the *Plaintiff's Original Petition*.
5. On or about September 30, 2024, *Final Judgment* was entered and states judgment on liability against Respondent and Agape was established as a matter of law because of Respondent's failure to file timely responses to Plaintiff's written discovery and Agape's failure to file a valid answer in the cause or make a valid appearance at trial.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Respondent voluntarily received a license from the Council and, therefore, is bound by the provisions of Chapters 501 and 507 of the Texas Occupations Code and the Rules of the Council, 22 Texas Administrative Code Parts 21 and 41.
2. Violation of the Council's Rules is unprofessional conduct and constitutes grounds for the imposition of sanctions under §§501.401, 507.301, and 507.351 of the Texas Occupations Code.
3. Based on the above Findings of Fact, the Council finds that Respondent violated Council Rules 22 Tex. Admin. Code §884.32 pertaining to Reportable Legal Action and Discipline; and 22 Tex. Admin. Code §465.33 pertaining to Improper Sexual Conduct.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED THAT:

1. Respondent, by signing this Agreed Order, hereby voluntarily and permanently **RESIGNS** his (#34502) in lieu of further adjudication by the Council on these matters.
2. Respondent shall return his license to the Council on June 13, 2025, the effective date of his resignation of license.
3. The Council will not consider an application for licensure from Respondent and Respondent agrees not to apply for any new license from the Council for ten (10) years from the effective date of this Order.
4. If Respondent seeks to apply for a license with the Council in the future, and the Council is willing to reinstate the license, Respondent will be subject to conditions of eligibility to be imposed by the Council at that time.

WARNING

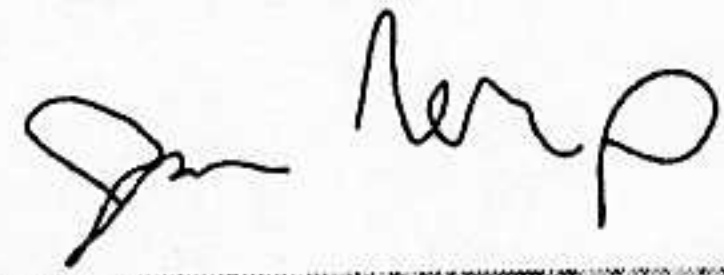
RESPONDENT'S FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ONE OR MORE TERMS OF THIS ORDER MAY CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF 22 TEXAS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE §884.55 REQUIRING FURTHER DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

WAIVERS

On the underlying investigative file, Respondent has waived his or her right to an informal settlement conference, a formal hearing before an Administrative Law Judge at the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH), and judicial review pursuant to Texas Government Code Chapter 2001, in exchange for the conditions set out in this Agreed Order.

THE RESPONDENT, BY SIGNING THIS ORDER, AGREES TO ITS TERMS, ACKNOWLEDGES UNDERSTANDING OF THE FORMAL NOTICES, FINDINGS OF FACT, AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW SET FORTH HEREIN AND COVENANTS TO SATISFACTORILY COMPLY WITH THE MANDATES OF THIS ORDER IN A TIMELY MANNER. RESPONDENT FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGES AND AGREES THAT HE OR SHE HAS AGREED TO THIS ORDER UPON THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF COUNSEL, OR THAT HE OR SHE HAS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE THIS ORDER REVIEWED BY COUNSEL OF HIS OR HER CHOICE.

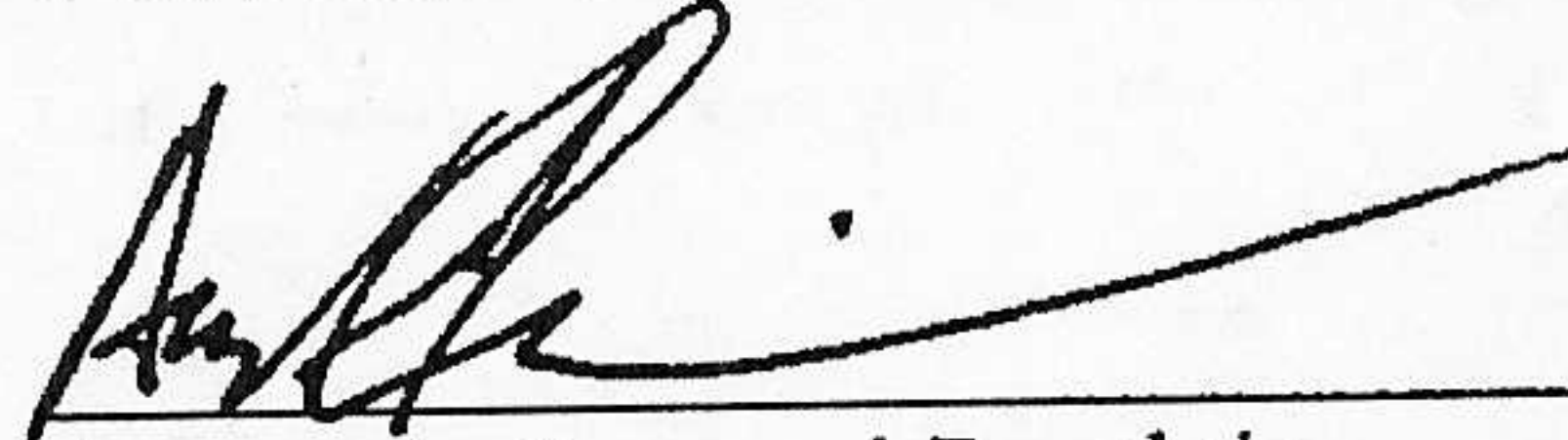
FOR THE RESPONDENT:



James Wesley Manuel
Licensed Psychologist
License Number: #34502

DATE SIGNED: 05/30/2025

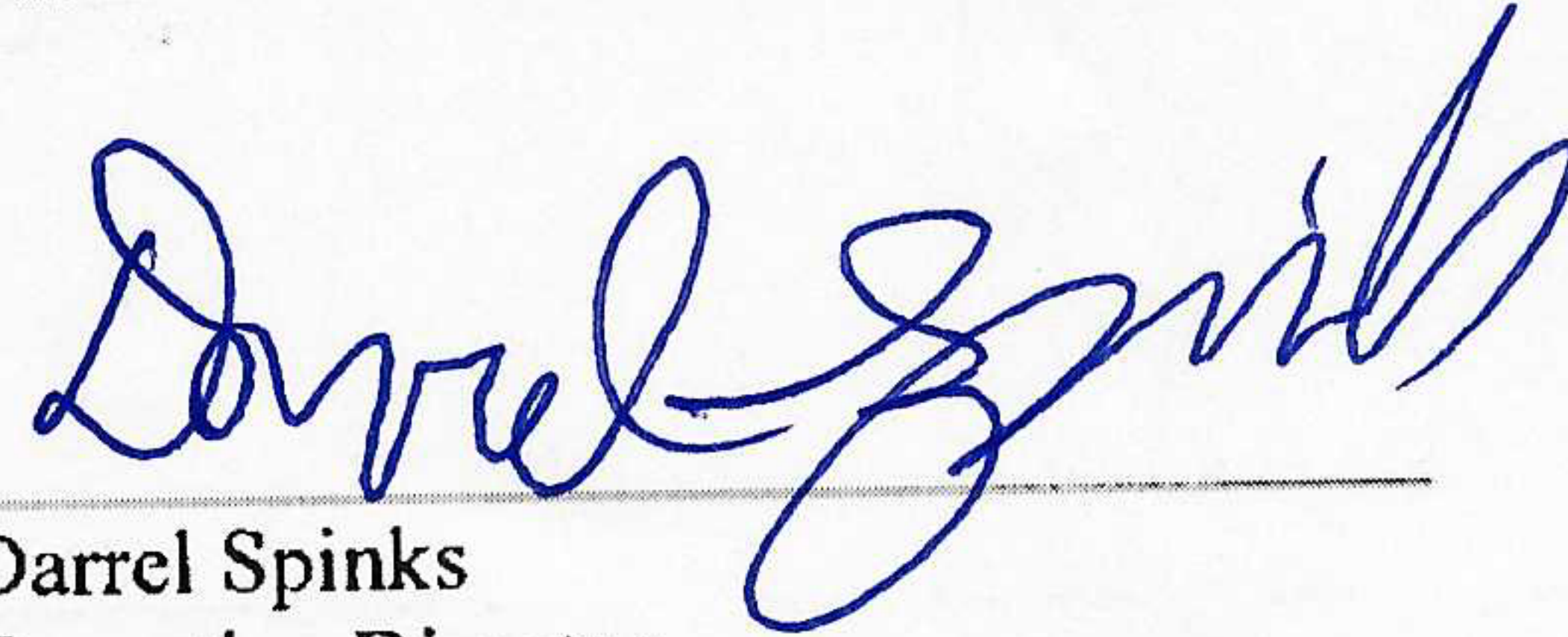
FOR THE STAFF OF THE COUNCIL:



Armando Lorenzi Peralejo
Texas Bar No. 24142309
Staff Attorney
Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council
1801 Congress Ave., Suite 7.300
Austin, Texas 78701

DATE SIGNED: 5/15/2025

APPROVED, RATIFIED, AND ENTERED THIS 2nd DAY OF June, 2025.



Darrel Spinks
Executive Director
Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council