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Frank A. O'Brien (1882-1958)
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February 29, 2016

Patricia J. Nesbitt, Admin. Services Manager
West Virginia Board of Examiners
Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology
99 Edmiston Way
Box 11, Suite 214
Buckhannon, WV 26201

**Re: Dr. Ronald Warrington
WV Audiology License #0289**

Dear Ms. Nesbitt:

Enclosed please find the original *Consent Decree* executed by Dr. Warrington, regarding the above-referenced action.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

CASSIDY COGAN
SHAPELL & VOEGELIN, L.C.


Timothy F. Cogan, Esq.

TFC/amd/14008.04

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Greg Foster, Assistant AG
Dr. Ronald Warrington

{00135567.1}

**BEFORE THE WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY**

WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EXAMINERS
FOR SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
AND AUDIOLOGY,

Complainant,

v.

Case No. 45
AUD License #A-0289

RONALD WARRINGTON,

Respondent.

CONSENT DECREE

COMES NOW, Respondent, Ronald Warrington (hereinafter "Respondent"), and the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (hereinafter "the Board"), for the purpose of entering a consent decree. In disciplinary matters, pursuant to West Virginia Code § 30-32-19(d), the Board and Respondent may enter into a Consent Decree in lieu of a hearing. As reflected herein, the parties have reached an agreement in which Respondent agrees and stipulates to the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth in this Consent Decree concerning the proper disposition of this matter. The Board, having approved such agreement does hereby **FIND** and **ORDER** as follows:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent is an audiologist holding License No. A-0289, originally issued by the Board in 2012.
2. By letter dated October 7, 2015, Respondent self-reported to the Board that he pled guilty to certain criminal offenses in the State of Ohio on or about August 7, 2015.

3. Namely, Respondent pled guilty to: (1) one count of unlawful sexual contact in violation of R.C. 2907.06, a 3rd degree misdemeanor; and (2) one count of child endangerment under R.C. 2919.22(A), a 3rd degree felony.

4. The victim in the criminal matter was Respondent's younger sister, and the events were alleged to have occurred between February 1996 and February 2000, when Respondent was between 10 -14 years of age.

5. In or about 2012, Respondent's sister reported the alleged misconduct to the Monroe County Sheriff's Department in Ohio. Respondent was indicted in April of 2014.

6. Under his plea agreement, Respondent was sentenced to one year of probation for each of the offenses.

7. On December 29, 2015, at the Board's request, Respondent underwent a Forensic Psychiatric Sex Offender Risk Assessment at the Department of Behavioral Medicine at West Virginia University's School of Medicine. The assessment was completed by Dr. Christi Cooper-Lehki, D.O. ("Dr. Cooper-Lehki").

8. In her evaluation report, Dr. Cooper-Lehki opined that Respondent did not have any psychiatric disorders or mental illnesses. Respondent was screened for paraphilic disorders, including Pedophilia, and there was no indication to suggest the presence of a paraphilia. Dr. Cooper-Lehki opined that Respondent was a low-risk for re-offense.

9. The events that were the subject of the criminal action occurred when Warrington was a juvenile and, and since that time, Warrington has had no other reported incidents of misconduct, sexual or otherwise.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Board is a state entity and is authorized to regulate conduct of speech pathologists and audiologists, and is charged with the responsibility to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public through its regulation of speech pathologists and audiologists. W. Va. Code § 30-32-1, *et al.*

2. The Board may suspend or revoke the license or registration of, impose probationary conditions upon or take disciplinary action against any licensee who has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor crime of moral turpitude. See W. Va. Code § 30-32-19(g)(1).

3. On or about August 7, 2015, Respondent pled guilty to (1) one count of unlawful sexual contact in violation of R.C. 2907.06, a 3rd degree misdemeanor; and (2) one count of child endangerment under R.C. 2919.22(A), a 3rd degree felony. Accordingly, Respondent's license is subject to discipline pursuant to W. Va. Code § 30-32-19(g)(1).

4. The Board is authorized to enter into a Consent Decree to resolve a Complaint without further adjudication. W. Va. Code § 30-32-19(d).

CONSENT

1. By signing below, Respondent agrees that he has had the opportunity to consult with counsel and executes this Consent Decree voluntarily, freely, without compulsion or duress, and is mindful that it has legal consequences. No person or entity has made any promise or given any inducement whatsoever to encourage Respondent to make this settlement other than as set forth herein.

2. Respondent acknowledges that he may pursue this matter through appropriate administrative and/or court proceedings, and is aware of his legal rights regarding this matter, but intelligently and voluntarily waives such rights.

3. The Board acknowledges that Respondent may reject this proposal. If the proposal is rejected, the Board will hold a Hearing to impose such sanctions of a disciplinary nature as it deems appropriate. Should Respondent not approve this Consent Decree, Respondent waives any objections to the Board or any of its members participating in the adjudication of this matter.

4. Respondent understands that this Consent Decree and the underlying Complaint are public records and agrees that the sum and substance of the Complaint and this Consent Decree in part or in their entirety may be set forth in Board publications and placements deemed appropriate by the Board.

5. Respondent acknowledges that proof of any misstatement or misrepresentation made in connection with this matter will result in the rescission of this Consent Decree, the reinstatement of the Complaint, and the addition of any charges which may arise or ensue from providing false information to the Board in violation of West Virginia law as it pertains to the practice of speech-language pathology.

6. Respondent has reviewed and consents to the following order affecting her license to practice speech pathology in the State of West Virginia.

ORDER

1. Based on the foregoing and upon entry of this Consent Decree, the Board hereby **ORDERS** that this Consent Decree shall serve as an informal settlement of the Complaint.

2. Respondent's licensed is placed on probation for a period of one (1) year from the date of execution of this Consent Decree.

3. During the probationary period, Respondent is prohibited from providing treatment to any individual under the age of eighteen (18) unless another adult is present in the room. The adult may be a parent, office manager or coworker, provided they are over the age of eighteen (18).

4. During the probationary period, any treatment provided to a patient under the age of eighteen (18) must be documented and submitted to the Board at the time of license renewal. The Board will review the documentation and the license renewal documents prior to the renewal being approved.


5. Respondent's employer must be notified in writing of the one (1) year probation and be provided with a copy of this Consent Decree. Respondent must verify in writing to the Board that his employer has been notified of his probation and received a copy of this Consent Decree.

6. Any violation of the terms of this Consent Decree will result in further disciplinary action by the Board, as deemed necessary by the Board.

7. The Consent Decree constitutes a full and final settlement of this matter, and nothing in this Consent Decree or the circumstances giving rise to the same may be the subject of any appeal or other civil or administrative action by this Board, except for an action to enforce the terms of this Consent Decree.


8. This matter shall be closed upon the execution of this Consent Decree by both parties and upon the satisfactory completion of the terms contained within this Consent Decree.

AGREED TO BY:




Ronald Warrington, Licensee

2-23-16
Date



Dr. Michael J. Zagarella
President, West Virginia Board of Examiners
For Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

3-7-16
Date



Patty Nesbitt, Administrative Services Manager
West Virginia Board of Examiners for Speech-
Language Pathology and Audiology

3/2/16
Date