

IN THE MATTER OF \* BEFORE THE MARYLAND  
DONALD CASSIDY, Ph.D. \* STATE BOARD OF  
License No. 02693 \* EXAMINERS OF PSYCHOLOGISTS  
\* \* \* \* \*

CONSENT ORDER

Findings of Fact

Based upon reports of abnormal behavior on the part of Donald Cassidy, Ph.D., License No. 02693 (The "Respondent") and pursuant to its authority under Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §18-314, the Maryland State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (The "Board") ordered that the Respondent be evaluated to determine whether his mental condition might adversely affect his psychology practice. After conducting his evaluation, Lawrence Donner, Ph.D. concluded that the Respondent suffered from a mental disorder that seriously impaired his judgment. Based on this report, the Board accepted the Respondent's Letter of Surrender on January 11, 1996. (See attached Letter of Surrender).

Under the terms of the Letter of Surrender, the Respondent was to continue in treatment for a minimum of one year. At the conclusion of one year, the Respondent had the right to petition the Board for reinstatement of a restricted license that would allow him to practice psychology under supervision. The Respondent was to submit a recommendation from his treating therapist that he could safely return to practice without endangering patients. The Respondent was also required to submit to an assessment by a

psychologist or psychiatrist selected by the Board and to provide all treatment records to the Board.

In accordance with the Letter of Surrender, the Board has received a written recommendation from the Respondent's treating therapist, Karen Blackburn, M.S.N., R.N., C.S.-P., in which she concluded that the Respondent could safely return to practice "in a clinic setting with the benefit of peers; also supervision the first year of practice would be wise." The Board-approved evaluator, Lawrence Donner, Ph.D., then evaluated the Respondent and recommended in his report that the Respondent continue in therapy, and if reinstated, that the Respondent work for at least one year under supervision. These recommendations are consistent with the provision contained on page 2 of the Letter of Surrender, condition no. 4, which reads as follows:

After the Board determines that conditions 1 through 4 are satisfied, I will commence the practice of psychology under a Board-approved supervisor. After one year of supervised practice and upon the Board's receipt of both satisfactory quarterly reports and a recommendation from my supervisor that I am capable of safely practicing psychology without supervision, I may petition the Board for reinstatement of my license to practice psychology.

**ORDER**

Based upon the Respondent's compliance with the conditions set forth in the Letter of Surrender and based upon the Board's review of the reports of Ms. Blackburn and Dr. Donner, on June 13, 1997, by a unanimous vote of a quorum of the Board considering this case:

**ORDERED** that the Respondent's license be reinstated and placed on **PROBATION**, subject to the following conditions of probation:

1. Respondent shall practice with other licensed mental health professionals in a clinic or group setting that is approved by the Board and shall practice under the supervision of a licensed psychologist at his expense and approved by the Board. The Respondent shall suggest psychologists that could act as his supervisor. However, the Board has final approval authority of the supervisor. The Board reserves the right to select another psychologist should the Board reject the Respondent's nominees. Once the Board has approved the practice setting and the supervisor, the Respondent may practice under supervision upon payment of the reinstatement fee of \$200.

2. Any change in supervisors must first be approved by the Board. The Respondent shall notify the Board immediately once he learns of a supervisor's intention to discontinue supervising him. The Respondent must also obtain the Board's approval prior to changing his employment and/or practice setting.

3. The Respondent shall continue to undergo mental health treatment by a licensed mental health professional at his expense until treatment is no longer deemed necessary by the licensed mental health professional. Should the Respondent decide to change therapists, he shall notify the Board immediately regarding the reason for the change and shall provide the Board with the name, address, and phone number of the new therapist who must also be a licensed mental health professional.

4. The Respondent is responsible for assuring that the Board-approved supervisor provides the Board with quarterly reports regarding his practice and that his therapist provides the Board with quarterly reports verifying his compliance with treatment.

5. After one year of supervised practice and upon the Board's receipt of both satisfactory quarterly reports and a recommendation from the Board-approved supervisor that the Respondent is capable of safely practicing psychology without supervision, the Respondent may petition the Board for full reinstatement of his license to practice psychology without probationary conditions. Prior to petitioning the Board for full reinstatement of his license, the Respondent must complete fifteen continuing education credits, five of which shall be Category A credits.

5. The Respondent shall practice in accordance with the Maryland Psychologists Act and in a competent manner. And be it further

**ORDERED** that the conditions of this Consent Order be, and the same is hereby, effective the date of this Order. And be it further **ORDERED** that if the Board has probable cause to believe that the Respondent presents a danger to the public health, safety or welfare, the Board, **WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE AND AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING, MAY SUMMARILY SUSPEND THE RESPONDENT'S LICENSE**, provided that the Respondent is given notice of the Board's action and an opportunity for a hearing within thirty (30) days after requesting same in accordance with State Government Article, §10-226. And be it further

**ORDERED** that in the event the Board receives an unsatisfactory report that it believes in good faith to be accurate, or in the event that the Board finds any reason in good faith that Respondent has violated any of the conditions of Probation thereunder, the Board may take action, including, but not limited to, revocation or suspension of the Respondent's license to practice psychology, after giving Respondent an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, State Government Article, §10-201, et seq. (1995). And be it further

**ORDERED** that on or after one year from the date Respondent's supervised practice begins, the Board shall entertain a petition for the termination of probation and full reinstatement of Respondent's license to practice psychology without any conditions or restrictions as to scope of practice. The Board shall not grant this petition until the Respondent complies with all conditions of probation set forth in this Consent Order and personally appears before the Board to answer any questions relating to his ability to safely practice psychology. If the Board determines that the termination of probation and complete reinstatement would be inappropriate at that time, the Board may either retain or modify one or more of the probationary conditions. And be it further

ORDERED that this Consent Order is considered a public document pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Government Article, §10-611, et seq. (1995).



Daniel R. Malone, Ph.D  
Chair  
Maryland State Board of  
Examiners of Psychologists

CONSENT OF DONALD CASSIDY, Ph.D.

I, Donald Cassidy, Ph.D., by affixing my signature hereto, acknowledge that:

1. I have been advised of my right to consult an attorney prior to signing this Order.

2. I am aware that without my consent, my license cannot be limited except pursuant to the provisions of §18-313 of the Act and §10-201 et seq. of the Administrative Procedure Act, State Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland.

By this Consent Order, I hereby consent and submit to the foregoing Findings of Fact and Order provided the Board adopts the foregoing Consent Order in its entirety. By doing so, I waive my right to a formal hearing as set forth in §10-201 et seq. of the Administrative Procedure Act, State Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and right to appeal as set forth in §18-316 of the Maryland Psychologists Act and §10-201, et seq. of the Administrative Procedure Act. I acknowledge that by failure to

abide by the conditions set forth in this Order and following proper procedures, I may suffer disciplinary action, possibly including revocation, against my license to practice psychology in the State of Maryland.

8/1/97  
Date

Donald Cassidy, Ph.D.  
Donald Cassidy, Ph.D.

VERIFICATION

STATE OF MARYLAND

CITY/COUNTY OF Frederick

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 1st day of August, 1997, a Notary Public of the State of Maryland and City/County aforesaid, personally appeared Donald Cassidy, Ph.D., License No. 02693, and made oath in due form of law that signing the foregoing Consent Order was his voluntary act and deed, and the statements made herein are true and correct.

AS WITNESSED by my hand and Notarial Seal.

Amy Sullivan Henry  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: **AMY SULLIVAN HENRY**  
**NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF MARYLAND**  
My Commission Expires February 16, 2000