# BEFORE THE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation Against:

Case No. 600-2016-000862

OAH No. 2022020135

MARK E. COOPER, PH.D., P.O. BOX 1594 SOLANA BEACH, CA 92075-7594

Psychologist License No. 14723

Respondent.

# **DECISION AND ORDER**

The attached Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby adopted by the Board of Psychology, Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in this matter.

This Decision shall become effective on July 30, 2022

It is so ORDERED June 30, 2022

ANTONETTE SORRICK

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER** 

**BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY** 

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

1	ROB BONTA Attorney General of California MATTHEW M. DAVIS				
2					
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General TESSA L. HEUNIS				
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 241559				
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7	Telephone: (619) 738-9403 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061				
8	Attorneys for Complainant				
9	DEFOR				
10	BEFORE THE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY				
11	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA				
12					
13	In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation Against:	Case No. 600-2016-000862			
14	MARK E. COOPER, PH.D.,	OAH No. 2022020135			
15	P.O. BOX 1594 SOLANA BEACH, CA 92075-7594	STIPULATED SURRENDER OF LICENSE AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER			
16	Psychologist License No. 14723				
17	Respondent.				
18					
19	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGR	EED by and between the parties to the above-			
20	entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:				
21	PART	TIES .			
22	1. Antonette Sorrick (Complainant) is th	e 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	Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by Tessa L. Heunis, Deputy Attorney				
25	General.				
26	2. Mark E. Cooper, Ph.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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#### **CULPABILITY**

- 8. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in First Amended Accusation No. 600-2016-000862, agrees that cause exists for discipline and hereby surrenders his Psychologist License No. 14723 for the Board's formal acceptance.
- 9. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation he enables the Board to issue an order accepting the surrender of his Psychologist License No. 14723 without further process.

# **CONTINGENCY**

- 10. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Board. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and surrender, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 11. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, including PDF and facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 12. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Order:

#### **ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Psychologist License No. 14723, issued to Respondent Mark E. Cooper, Ph.D., is surrendered and accepted by the Board.

1. The surrender of Respondent's Psychologist License No. 14723 and the acceptance of the surrendered license by the Board shall constitute the imposition of discipline against Respondent. This stipulation constitutes a record of the discipline and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Board.

- 2. Respondent shall lose all rights and privileges as a Psychologist in California as of the effective date of the Board's Decision and Order.
- 3. Respondent shall relinquish his wall and pocket certificate of licensure or registration to the Board or its designee once this Decision becomes effective and upon request.
- 4. If Respondent ever files an application for licensure or a petition for reinstatement in the State of California, the Board shall treat it as a petition for reinstatement. Respondent must comply with all the laws, regulations and procedures for reinstatement of a revoked or surrendered license in effect at the time the petition is filed, and all of the charges and allegations contained in First Amended Accusation No. 600-2016-000862 shall be deemed to be true, correct and admitted by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the petition.
- 5. Respondent may not petition for reinstatement of a revoked or surrendered license/registration for three (3) years from the effective date of this Decision. If the Board grants future reinstatement, Respondent agrees to reimburse the Board for its costs of investigation and enforcement of this mater in the amount of \$15, 215.00 (fifteen thousand two hundred and fifteen dollars) payable to the Board upon the effective date of such reinstatement Decision.
- 6. Respondent shall pay the agency its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$15, 215.00 (fifteen thousand two hundred and fifteen dollars) prior to issuance of a new or reinstated license.
- 7. If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for a new license or certification, or petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care licensing agency in the State of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in First Amended Accusation, No. 600-2016-000862 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.

### **ACCEPTANCE**

I have carefully read the Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order. I fully understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Psychologist License No. 14723. I

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1	enter into this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and
2	intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Psychology.
3	1/2/2011
4	DATED: MARK E. COOPER, PH.D.
5	Respondent
6	
7	ENDORSEMENT
8	The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order is hereby
9	respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board of Psychology of the Department of
10	Consumer Affairs.
11   12	DATED: Respectfully submitted,
13	ROB BONTA Attorney General of California
14	MATTHEW M. DAVIS Supervising Deputy Attorney General
15	Departy Attorney General
16	Tree I Hrypy
17	TESSA L. HEUNIS Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant
18	Autorneys for Complainant
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<ul><li>26</li><li>27</li></ul>	
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# Exhibit A

First Amended Accusation No. 600-2016-000862

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1	ROB BONTA			
2	Attorney General of California MATTHEW M. DAVIS			
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General TESSA L. HEUNIS			
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 241559			
5	600 West Broadway, Suite 1800 San Diego, CA 92101			
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7	Telephone: (619) 738-9403 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061			
8	Attorneys for Complainant			
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10	BEFORE TH			
11	BOARD OF PSYCH DEPARTMENT OF CONS			
12	STATE OF CALIFORNIA			
13				
14	In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation   Cas Against:	e No. 600-2016-000862		
15	MARK E. COOPER, PH.D.			
16	PO BOX 1594 SOLANA BEACH CA 92075-7594	ST AMENDED ACCUSATION		
17	Psychologist License No. 14723			
18	Respondent.			
19 20	PARTIES			
21	1. Antonette Sorrick (Complainant) brings this First Amended Accusation solely in her			
22	official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Psychology, Department of Consumer			
23	Affairs (Board).			
24	2. On or about August 7, 1996, the Board of Psychology issued Psychologist License			
25	Number 14723 to Mark E. Cooper, Ph.D. (Respondent). The Psychologist License was in full			
26	force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on May 31,			
27	2022, unless renewed.			
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1	8. Unprofessional conduct under Business and Professions Code section 2960 is conduct	
2	which breaches the rules or ethical code of a profession, or conduct which is unbecoming a	
3	member in good standing of a profession, and which demonstrates an unfitness to practice the	
4	profession. (Shea v. Board of Medical Examiners (1978) 81 Cal.App.3d 564, 575.)	
5	REGULATORY PROVISIONS	
6	9. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1394, states:	
7	For the purposes of denial, suspension, or revocation of a license or registration	
8	pursuant to Division 1.5 (commencing with Section 475) of the code, a crime or act shall be considered to be substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties	
9	of a person holding a license or registration under the Psychology Licensing Law (Chapter 6.6 of Division 2 of the Code), if to a substantial degree it evidences present	
10	or potential unfitness of a person holding a license or registration to perform the functions authorized by his or her license or registration or in a manner consistent with the public health, safety, or welfare. Such crimes or acts shall include but not be	
11	limited to those involving the following:	
12	(a) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of or conspiring to violate any provision or term of that law.	
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14	···	
15	10. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1395.2, states:	
16	(a) In reaching a decision on a disciplinary action under the administrative adjudication provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act (Government Code	
17	Section 11400 et seq.), the Board of Psychology shall consider and apply the "Disciplinary Guidelines and Uniform Standards related to Substance Abusing	
18	Licensees (4/15)," which is hereby incorporated by reference.	
19	(b) If the conduct found to be grounds for discipline involves drugs and/or alcohol, the licensee shall be presumed to be a substance-abusing licensee for	
20	purposes of section 315 of the Code. If the licensee does not rebut that presumption, in addition to any and all other relevant terms and conditions contained in the	
21	Disciplinary Guidelines, the terms and conditions that incorporate the Uniform Standards Related to Substance Abusing Licensees shall apply as written and be used	
22	in the order placing the license on probation.	
23	(c) Deviation from the Disciplinary Guidelines, including the standard terms of probation, is appropriate where the Board of Psychology in its sole discretion	
24	determines that the facts of the particular case warrant such a deviation; for example: the presence of mitigating or aggravating factors; the age of the case; or evidentiary	
25 26	issues.	
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in his blood; Count 3, VC section 14601.1(a), driving a motor vehicle on a suspended license; and Count 4, VC section 12500(a), driving a motor vehicle without a valid California driver's license.

15. On or about November 22, 2019, Respondent pleaded guilty to Count 2, driving a vehicle with 0.08 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in his blood, in violation of VC section 23152(b). On the same date, Respondent was convicted on his plea of guilty. Respondent was placed on summary probation with the imposition of sentence suspended for three (3) years on various terms and conditions.

#### May 18, 2020:

- 16. On or about May 18, 2020, at or about 5:45 p.m., Respondent was denied the purchase of alcohol at a convenience store. He was seen getting into his motor vehicle and driving away and was reported to the Oceanside Police Department (OPD). An Officer of the OPD found Respondent in his vehicle at a nearby liquor store. After being evaluated, the Respondent was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.
- 17. A blood sample was obtained from Respondent for forensic analysis, and found to have a BAC of .35 percent.
- 18. On or about June 26, 2020, a misdemeanor complaint was filed against Respondent in the case of *People of the State of California v. Mark Cooper*, Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, North County Division, Case No. CN414957, charging him with the following violations: Count 1, VC section 23152(a), driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs; and Count 2, VC section 23152(b), driving a vehicle with 0.08 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in his blood, with the added allegation that the Respondent's blood alcohol concentration was 0.15 percent or more within the meaning of VC section 23578.
- 19. On or about September 22, 2021, Respondent pleaded guilty to Count 2, driving a vehicle with 0.08 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in his blood, in violation of VC section 23152(b) while having a prior conviction of VC section 23152(b), and with a BAC of more than .15%. On the same date, Respondent was convicted on his plea of guilty.

20. On or about December 14, 2021, Respondent was committed to the custody of the Sheriff for ninety (90) days, to be served consecutive to the sentence imposed in Case No. CN416903, below.

## June 26, 2020:

- 21. On or about June 26, 2020, at approximately 11:00 a.m., a complaint of reckless driving in the area of Oceanside Boulevard and South Coast Highway was made to OPD. The make, model and registration number of the vehicle was provided by the caller, and subsequently found parked in front of a liquor store on South Coast Highway.
- 22. Respondent was found seated in the driver's seat, unconscious but breathing. He was contacted by an Officer of the OPD and, after being awoken, was unable to stand or walk.
- 23. A blood sample was obtained from Respondent for forensic analysis, and found to have a BAC of .48 percent.
- 24. On or about September 3, 2020, a misdemeanor complaint was filed against Respondent in the case of *People of the State of California v. Mark Cooper*, Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, North County Division, Case No. CN416903, charging him with the following violations: Count 1, VC section 23152(a), driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs; Count 2, VC section 23152(b), driving a vehicle with 0.08 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in his blood; and Count 3, VC section 14601.2(a), driving a motor vehicle on a license that had been suspended for a prior DUI conviction. Both Count 1 and Count 2 had the added allegations that the Respondent's blood alcohol concentration was 0.15 percent or more within the meaning of VC section 23578, and that he had a DUI conviction within the prior 10 years within the meaning of VC sections 23626 and 23540.
- 25. On or about September 22, 2021, Respondent pleaded guilty to Count 2, driving a vehicle with 0.08 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in his blood, in violation of VC section 23152(b) while having a prior conviction of VC section 23152(b), and with a BAC of more than .15%. On the same date, Respondent was convicted on his plea of guilty.

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26. On or about December 14, 2021, Respondent was committed to the custody of the Sheriff for ninety (90) days, to be served consecutive to the sentence imposed in Case No. CN420726, below.

#### October 4, 2020:

- 27. On or about October 4, 2020, at approximately 10:48 p.m., OPD received a report of a man who was passed out behind the wheel of his vehicle with the engine running. An officer from the OPD contacted Respondent in his motor vehicle. The engine was off and the key was in the ignition. Respondent was arrested for a suspected DUI.
- 28. A blood sample was obtained from Respondent for forensic analysis, and found to have a BAC of .46 percent.
- 29. On or about January 4, 2021, a misdemeanor complaint was filed against Respondent in the case of *People of the State of California v. Mark Cooper*, Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, North County Division, Case No. CN420726, charging him with the following violations: Count 1, VC section 23152(a), driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs; Count 2, VC section 23152(b), driving a vehicle with 0.08 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in his blood; Count 3, VC 14601.2(a), driving a motor vehicle on a license that had been suspended for a prior DUI conviction. Both Count 1 and Count 2 had the added allegations that Respondent's blood alcohol concentration was 0.15 percent or more within the meaning of VC section 23578, and that he had a DUI conviction within the prior 10 years within the meaning of VC sections 23626 and 23540.
- 30. On or about September 22, 2021, Respondent pleaded guilty to Count 2, driving a vehicle with 0.08 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in his blood, in violation of VC section 23152(b) while having a prior conviction of VC section 23152(b), and with a BAC of more than .15%. On the same date, Respondent was convicted on his plea of guilty.
- 31. On or about December 14, 2021, the Respondent was committed to the custody of the Sheriff for four (4) days and placed on formal probation for five (5) years on various terms and conditions.

through 31, above, which are hereby re-alleged and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth

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herein.

# **EIGHTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

(Use of an Alcoholic Beverage to an Extent or in a Manner Dangerous to Himself or to Another Person, or to the Public)

39. Respondent is further subject to disciplinary action under section 2960, as defined by section 2960, subdivision (b), of the Code, in that he used an alcoholic beverage to an extent or in a manner dangerous to himself, any other person, or the public, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 27 through 31, above, which are hereby re-alleged and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

# **NINTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

(General Unprofessional Conduct)

- 40. Respondent is further subject to disciplinary action under section 2960 in that he has engaged in conduct which breaches the rules or ethical code of the profession of a psychologist, or conduct that is unbecoming to a member in good standing of the profession of a psychologist, and which demonstrates an unfitness to practice psychology, as more particularly alleged hereinafter.
- 41. Paragraphs 13 through 39, above, are hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.
- 42. On or about August 16, 2018, in the case of *People of the State of California v. Mark Cooper*, Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, Central Division, Case No. CN389421, Respondent pleaded guilty to one count of Penal Code section 166, subdivision (c)(1), acknowledging that he had "knowingly, willfully and unlawfully violated a court order to stay away from his estranged wife's residence." He was convicted on his plea of guilty and was sentenced to three (3) years' summary probation, on terms and conditions.

#### TENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Violation of a Provision of the Psychology Licensing Act)

43. Respondent is further subject to disciplinary action under section 2960, as defined by section 2960, subdivision (k), of the Code, in that he violated one or more provisions of the Psychology Licensing Act or regulations duly adopted thereunder, as more particularly alleged in

1	paragraphs 13 through 42, above, which are hereby re-alleged and incorporated by reference as if	
2	fully set forth herein.	
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 Number 14723, issued to Respondent	
7	Mark E. Cooper, Ph.D.;	
8	2. Ordering Respondent Mark E. Cooper, Ph.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.	
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13	DATED MOUS 2000	
14	DATED: May 5, 2022  ANTONETTE SORRICK	
15	Executive Officer Board of Psychology	
16	Department of Consumer Affairs State of California	
17	Complainant	
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