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7

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

12 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 600-2019-000941

13 **VINCENT SHANKS, PH.D.**  
14 **32605 Temecula Pkwy, Suite 219**  
15 **Temecula, CA 92592-6840**

**ACCUSATION**

16 **Registered Psychological Associate**  
17 **No. 94020884,**

Respondent.

18  
19  
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.

23 2. On or about August 26, 2014, the Board of Psychology issued Registered  
24 Psychological Associate Number 94020884 to VINCENT SHANKS, Ph.D. (Respondent). The  
25 Registered Psychological Associate expired on August 19, 2020, and has not been renewed.

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1 **JURISDICTION**

2 3. This Accusation is brought before the Board of Psychology (Board), Department of  
3 Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the  
4 Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise indicated.

5 **STATUTORY PROVISIONS**

6 4. Section 118 of the Code states:

7 (a) The withdrawal of an application for a license after it has been filed with a  
8 board in the department shall not, unless the board has consented in writing to such  
9 withdrawal, deprive the board of its authority to institute or continue a proceeding  
against the applicant for the denial of the license upon any ground provided by law or  
to enter an order denying the license upon any such ground.

10 (b) The suspension, expiration, or forfeiture by operation of law of a license  
11 issued by a board in the department, or its suspension, forfeiture, or cancellation by  
12 order of the board or by order of a court of law, or its surrender without the written  
13 consent of the board, shall not, during any period in which it may be renewed,  
14 restored, reissued, or reinstated, deprive the board of its authority to institute or  
continue a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee upon any ground provided by  
law or to enter an order suspending or revoking the license or otherwise taking  
disciplinary action against the licensee on any such ground.

15 (c) As used in this section, "board" includes an individual who is authorized by  
16 any provision of this code to issue, suspend, or revoke a license, and "license"  
includes "certificate," "registration," and "permit."

17 5. Section 2913 of the Code states:

18 A person other than a licensed psychologist may perform psychological  
19 functions in preparation for licensure as a psychologist only if all of the following  
conditions are met:

20 (a) The person shall register himself or herself with the board as a  
21 "psychological assistant." This registration shall be renewed annually in accordance  
with regulations adopted by the board.

22 (b) The person (1) has completed a master's degree in psychology or education  
23 with the field of specialization in psychology or counseling psychology, or (2) has  
24 been admitted to candidacy for a doctoral degree in psychology or education with the  
25 field of specialization in psychology or counseling psychology, after having  
satisfactorily completed three or more years of postgraduate education in psychology  
and having passed preliminary doctoral examinations, or (3) has completed a doctoral  
degree that qualifies for licensure under Section 2914.

26 (c)(1) The psychological assistant is at all times under the immediate  
27 supervision, as defined in regulations adopted by the board, of a licensed  
28 psychologist, or a licensed physician and surgeon who is certified in psychiatry by the  
American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology or the American College of  
Osteopathic Board of Neurology and Psychiatry, who shall be responsible for

1 insuring that the extent, kind, and quality of the psychological services that the  
2 psychological assistant performs are consistent with his or her training and experience  
and be responsible for the psychological assistant's compliance with this chapter and  
regulations.

3 (2) A licensed psychologist or board certified psychiatrist shall not supervise  
4 more than three psychological assistants at any given time. No psychological  
assistant may provide psychological services to the public except as a supervisee  
5 pursuant to this section.

6 (d) The psychological assistant shall comply with regulations that the board  
may, from time to time, duly adopt relating to the fulfillment of requirements in  
7 continuing education.

8 6. Section 2960 of the Code states:

9 The board may refuse to issue any registration or license, or may issue a  
10 registration or license with terms and conditions, or may suspend or revoke the  
registration or license of any registrant or licensee if the applicant, registrant, or  
11 licensee has been guilty of unprofessional conduct. Unprofessional conduct shall  
include, but not be limited to:

12 ...

13 (h) Willful, unauthorized communication of information received in  
14 professional confidence.

15 (i) Violating any rule of professional conduct promulgated by the board and set  
forth in regulations duly adopted under this chapter.

16 (j) Being grossly negligent in the practice of their profession.

17 (k) Violating any of the provisions of this chapter or regulations duly adopted  
18 thereunder.

19 ...

20 (n) The commission of any dishonest, corrupt, or fraudulent act.

21 (o) Any act of sexual abuse, or sexual relations with a patient or former patient  
22 within two years following termination of therapy, or sexual misconduct that is  
substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a psychologist or  
registered psychological associate.

23 (p) Functioning outside of his or her particular field or fields of competence as  
24 established by his or her education, training, and experience.

25 ...

26 (r) Repeated acts of negligence.

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1           7.     Section 2960.1 of the Code states:

2                     Notwithstanding Section 2960, any proposed decision or decision issued under  
3 this chapter in accordance with the procedures set forth in Chapter 5 (commencing  
4 with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, that  
5 contains any finding of fact that the licensee or registrant engaged in any act of sexual  
6 contact, as defined in Section 728, when that act is with a patient, or with a former  
7 patient within two years following termination of therapy, shall contain an order of  
8 revocation. The revocation shall not be stayed by the administrative law judge.

9           8.     Section 726 of the Code states:

10                   (a) The commission of any act of sexual abuse, misconduct, or relations with a  
11 patient, client, or customer constitutes unprofessional conduct and grounds for  
12 disciplinary action for any person licensed under this or under any initiative act  
13 referred to in this division.

14                   (b) This section shall not apply to consensual sexual contact between a licensee  
15 and his or her spouse or person in an equivalent domestic relationship when that  
16 licensee provides medical treatment, to his or her spouse or person in an equivalent  
17 domestic relationship.

18           9.     Section 729 of the Code states:

19                   (a) Any physician and surgeon, psychotherapist, alcohol and drug abuse  
20 counselor or any person holding himself or herself out to be a physician and surgeon,  
21 psychotherapist, or alcohol and drug abuse counselor, who engages in an act of sexual  
22 intercourse, sodomy, oral copulation, or sexual contact with a patient or client, or  
23 with a former patient or client when the relationship was terminated primarily for the  
24 purpose of engaging in those acts, unless the physician and surgeon, psychotherapist,  
25 or alcohol and drug abuse counselor has referred the patient or client to an  
26 independent and objective physician and surgeon, psychotherapist, or alcohol and  
27 drug abuse counselor recommended by a third-party physician and surgeon,  
28 psychotherapist, or alcohol and drug abuse counselor for treatment, is guilty of sexual  
exploitation by a physician and surgeon, psychotherapist, or alcohol and drug abuse  
counselor.

(b) Sexual exploitation by a physician and surgeon, psychotherapist, or alcohol  
and drug abuse counselor is a public offense:

(1) An act in violation of subdivision (a) shall be punishable by imprisonment  
in a county jail for a period of not more than six months, or a fine not exceeding one  
thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that imprisonment and fine.

(2) Multiple acts in violation of subdivision (a) with a single victim, when the  
offender has no prior conviction for sexual exploitation, shall be punishable by  
imprisonment in a county jail for a period of not more than six months, or a fine not  
exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that imprisonment and fine.

(3) An act or acts in violation of subdivision (a) with two or more victims shall  
be punishable by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the  
Penal Code for a period of 16 months, two years, or three years, and a fine not  
exceeding ten thousand dollars (\$10,000); or the act or acts shall be punishable by  
imprisonment in a county jail for a period of not more than one year, or a fine not  
exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that imprisonment and fine.

1 (4) Two or more acts in violation of subdivision (a) with a single victim, when  
2 the offender has at least one prior conviction for sexual exploitation, shall be  
3 punishable by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal  
4 Code for a period of 16 months, two years, or three years, and a fine not exceeding  
5 ten thousand dollars (\$10,000); or the act or acts shall be punishable by imprisonment  
6 in a county jail for a period of not more than one year, or a fine not exceeding one  
7 thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that imprisonment and fine.

8 (5) An act or acts in violation of subdivision (a) with two or more victims, and  
9 the offender has at least one prior conviction for sexual exploitation, shall be  
10 punishable by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal  
11 Code for a period of 16 months, two years, or three years, and a fine not exceeding  
12 ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

13 For purposes of subdivision (a), in no instance shall consent of the patient or  
14 client be a defense. However, physicians and surgeons shall not be guilty of sexual  
15 exploitation for touching any intimate part of a patient or client unless the touching is  
16 outside the scope of medical examination and treatment, or the touching is done for  
17 sexual gratification.

18 (c) For purposes of this section:

19 (1) "Psychotherapist" has the same meaning as defined in Section 728.

20 (2) "Alcohol and drug abuse counselor" means an individual who holds himself  
21 or herself out to be an alcohol or drug abuse professional or paraprofessional.

22 (3) "Sexual contact" means sexual intercourse or the touching of an intimate  
23 part of a patient for the purpose of sexual arousal, gratification, or abuse.

24 (4) "Intimate part" and "touching" have the same meanings as defined in  
25 Section 243.4 of the Penal Code.

26 (d) In the investigation and prosecution of a violation of this section, no person  
27 shall seek to obtain disclosure of any confidential files of other patients, clients, or  
28 former patients or clients of the physician and surgeon, psychotherapist, or alcohol  
and drug abuse counselor.

(e) This section does not apply to sexual contact between a physician and  
surgeon and his or her spouse or person in an equivalent domestic relationship when  
that physician and surgeon provides medical treatment, other than psychotherapeutic  
treatment, to his or her spouse or person in an equivalent domestic relationship.

(f) If a physician and surgeon, psychotherapist, or alcohol and drug abuse  
counselor in a professional partnership or similar group has sexual contact with a  
patient in violation of this section, another physician and surgeon, psychotherapist, or  
alcohol and drug abuse counselor in the partnership or group shall not be subject to  
action under this section solely because of the occurrence of that sexual contact.

### **STATUTORY PROVISIONS**

10. Section 1014 of the California Evidence Code states:

Subject to Section 912 and except as otherwise provided in this article, the  
patient, whether or not a party, has a privilege to refuse to disclose, and to prevent  
another from disclosing, a confidential communication between patient and

1 psychotherapist if the privilege is claimed by:

2 (a) The holder of the privilege.

3 (b) A person who is authorized to claim the privilege by the holder of the  
4 privilege.

5 (c) The person who was the psychotherapist at the time of the confidential  
6 communication, but the person may not claim the privilege if there is no holder of the  
7 privilege in existence or if he or she is otherwise instructed by a person authorized to  
8 permit disclosure.

### 9 COST RECOVERY

10 11. Section 125.3 of the Code states:

11 (a) Except as otherwise provided by law, in any order issued in resolution of a  
12 disciplinary proceeding before any board within the department or before the  
13 Osteopathic Medical Board, upon request of the entity bringing the proceeding, the  
14 administrative law judge may direct a licensee found to have committed a violation or  
15 violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the  
16 investigation and enforcement of the case.

17 (b) In the case of a disciplined licensee that is a corporation or a partnership,  
18 the order may be made against the licensed corporate entity or licensed partnership.

19 (c) A certified copy of the actual costs, or a good faith estimate of costs where  
20 actual costs are not available, signed by the entity bringing the proceeding or its  
21 designated representative shall be prima facie evidence of reasonable costs of  
22 investigation and prosecution of the case. The costs shall include the amount of  
23 investigative and enforcement costs up to the date of the hearing, including, but not  
24 limited to, charges imposed by the Attorney General.

25 (d) The administrative law judge shall make a proposed finding of the amount  
26 of reasonable costs of investigation and prosecution of the case when requested  
27 pursuant to subdivision (a). The finding of the administrative law judge with regard  
28 to costs shall not be reviewable by the board to increase the cost award. The board  
may reduce or eliminate the cost award, or remand to the administrative law judge if  
the proposed decision fails to make a finding on costs requested pursuant to  
subdivision (a).

(e) If an order for recovery of costs is made and timely payment is not made as  
directed in the board's decision, the board may enforce the order for repayment in any  
appropriate court. This right of enforcement shall be in addition to any other rights  
the board may have as to any licensee to pay costs.

(f) In any action for recovery of costs, proof of the board's decision shall be  
conclusive proof of the validity of the order of payment and the terms for payment.

(g)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the board shall not renew or  
reinstate the license of any licensee who has failed to pay all of the costs ordered  
under this section.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the board may, in its discretion,  
conditionally renew or reinstate for a maximum of one year the license of any

1 licensee who demonstrates financial hardship and who enters into a formal agreement  
2 with the board to reimburse the board within that one-year period for the unpaid  
3 costs.

4 (h) All costs recovered under this section shall be considered a reimbursement  
5 for costs incurred and shall be deposited in the fund of the board recovering the costs  
6 to be available upon appropriation by the Legislature.

7 (i) Nothing in this section shall preclude a board from including the recovery  
8 of the costs of investigation and enforcement of a case in any stipulated settlement.

9 (j) This section does not apply to any board if a specific statutory provision in  
10 that board's licensing act provides for recovery of costs in an administrative  
11 disciplinary proceeding.

12 (k) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the Medical Board of  
13 California shall not request nor obtain from a physician and surgeon, investigation  
14 and prosecution costs for a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee. The board  
15 shall ensure that this subdivision is revenue neutral with regard to it and that any loss  
16 of revenue or increase in costs resulting from this subdivision is offset by an increase  
17 in the amount of the initial license fee and the biennial renewal fee, as provided in  
18 subdivision (e) of Section 2435.

### 19 FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

20 12. As a psychological associate, Respondent provided therapeutic services to Client A<sup>1</sup>  
21 from June 2017 until January 2018. Client A presented to Respondent after her mother passed  
22 away from breast cancer, invoking fears of her own demise. Client A wanted to address her  
23 anxiety, panic attacks, and depression stemming from this fear of breast cancer.

24 13. During her first session with Respondent, Client A explained that she was molested as  
25 a child and feared that she would die like her mother. Respondent indicated that he too had been  
26 sexually abused, and he could prevent her from getting breast cancer because he was a psychic  
27 healer.

28 14. Throughout the course of the therapeutic relationship, Respondent repeatedly stated  
that he had special abilities using spiritual healing, energy work, and astral projection.<sup>2</sup>  
Respondent told Client A that he could make sure she did not need preventative surgery through  
his energy work.

15 15. In or about July 2017, Respondent performed his first "psychic healing" on Client A's  
16 breast. Respondent asked her to remove her bra, and proceeded to put his hands under her shirt

17 \_\_\_\_\_  
18 <sup>1</sup> Client A is designated as such to address privacy concerns.

19 <sup>2</sup> Astral projection is the supposed act of leaving your body while sleeping.

1 and held her breasts. Respondent slowly rotated his hands in a circular motion for about ten  
2 minutes.

3 16. Client A presented to Respondent on at least two additional occasions, between July  
4 and September 2017, where Respondent again performed “psychic healing” of her breasts.

5 17. On another unknown date, Client A mentioned to Respondent that she and her  
6 husband were trying to have children. Respondent claimed that he could help and he put his hand  
7 on her bare stomach, claiming that it was a healing technique.

8 18. In or about January 2018, Client A terminated her therapeutic relationship with  
9 Respondent because she did not feel right about him touching her. Additionally, Client A heard  
10 that Respondent may have had an affair with a former patient and that another patient may have  
11 filed a complaint against Respondent.

12 19. On or about October 2, 2019, in the case of *The People of the State of California v.*  
13 *Vincent Shanks*, Superior Court of California for the County of Riverside, case number  
14 SWF1900632, Respondent was charged with three counts of felony assault and battery, in  
15 violation of Penal Code section 243.4, subdivision (c).

16 20. As of August 2022, Respondent’s criminal case is still pending.

17 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

18 (Sexual Contact with a Patient)

19 21. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 2960, subdivision  
20 (o), 2960.1, 726, and 729 in that he engaged in unwanted sexual contact with Client A. The  
21 circumstances are as follows:

22 22. Complainant refers to and, by this reference, incorporates herein, paragraphs 12  
23 through 20, above, as though fully set forth herein.

24 23. The American Psychological Association’s *Ethical Principles of Psychologists and*  
25 *Code of Conduct* (2003) and Amendments (2010 and 2016), set forth the relevant standard of care  
26 and rules for the profession of psychology, and have been adopted by the Board.

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1           24. *Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct*, Standard 10.05 Sexual  
2 Intimacies with Current Therapy Clients/Patients, states, “Psychologists do not engage in sexual  
3 intimacies with current therapy clients/patients.”

4           25. Respondent’s repeated touching of Client A’s breasts constitutes sexual contact,  
5 pursuant to Code section 2960.1.

6                                           **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

7                                           (Gross and Repeated Negligence)

8           26. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2960, subdivisions (j)  
9 and (r), in that he was grossly and repeatedly negligent in his treatment of Client A. The  
10 circumstances are as follows:

11           27. The allegations of the First Cause for Discipline, in paragraphs 22 through 25, above,  
12 are incorporated herein by reference and re-alleged as if fully set forth.

13           28. Respondent’s violation of *Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct*,  
14 Standard 10.05, by repeatedly touching Client A’s breasts constitutes sexual contact and is an  
15 extreme departure from the standard of care.

16           29. *Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct*, Standard 3.04 Avoiding  
17 Harm, states:

18                   (a) Psychologists take reasonable steps to avoid harming their clients/patients,  
19 students, supervisees, research participants, organizational clients, and others with  
whom they work, and to minimize harm where it is foreseeable and unavoidable.

20                   (b) Psychologists do not participate in, facilitate, assist, or otherwise engage in  
21 torture, defined as any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or  
22 mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person, or in any other cruel, inhuman, or  
degrading behavior that violates 3.04(a).

23           30. The standard of care requires that no practitioner commit an act that is likely to cause  
24 a patient harm. An act does not have to be shown to have caused actual harm to a patient to be  
25 considered a violation of the standard of care.

26           31. Respondent knew, or should have known, that a sexualized relationship with Client A  
27 would cause her risk of harm, including harm to her self-esteem, trust in herself and others, and  
28 even risk of anxiety, confusion, and shame.

1           32. Further, Client A reported a history of sexual abuse to Respondent, and his actions  
2 triggered negative feelings regarding her past abuse. As such, his actions caused patient harm and  
3 constitutes an extreme departure from the standard of care.

4           33. *Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct*, Standard 2.04 Bases for  
5 Scientific and Professional Judgments, states, “Psychologists’ work is based upon established  
6 scientific and professional knowledge of the discipline.”

7           34. Respondent’s practice consisted of “energy work,” “spiritual healing,” and “astral  
8 projection.” Respondent also indicated he had “special abilities.” None of these methods are  
9 accepted methods of psychological treatment for anxiety, depression, or panic attacks.

10          35. Respondent’s representation that his unaccepted and unsubstantiated methods of  
11 treatment were effective constitutes a fraudulent act and an extreme departure from the standard  
12 of care.

13          36. Moreover, treating a patient with unsubstantiated methods of treatment, without  
14 knowledge that the treatment has no scientific foundation, and failing to provide Client A with an  
15 established effective treatment, are incompetent acts and constitute extreme departures from the  
16 standard of care.

17          37. The standard of care requires psychologists and psychological associates to obtain  
18 informed consent using language that is reasonably understandable to the client(s). Practitioners  
19 must also appropriately document written or oral consent, permission, and assent.

20          38. *Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct*, Standard 10.01 Informed  
21 Consent to Therapy, states in pertinent part:

22               (b) When obtaining informed consent for treatment for which generally  
23 recognized techniques and procedures have not been established, psychologists  
24 inform their clients/patients of the developing nature of the treatment, the potential  
risks involved, alternative treatments that may be available, and the voluntary nature  
of their participation.

25          39. Respondent failed to have Client A sign an informed consent document for his  
26 unsupported treatment. Further, he failed to explain the lack of scientific support for the  
27 treatment used, or offer evidence-based alternative treatments. The failure to obtain and  
28 document an informed consent, from Client A, is a departure from the standard of care.

1 **THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

2 (Commission of Any Dishonest or Fraudulent Act)

3 40. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2960, subdivision (n),  
4 in that he committed dishonest and fraudulent acts. The circumstances are as follows:

5 41. The allegations in paragraphs 12 through 20 and 33 through 36, above, are  
6 incorporated herein by reference and re-alleged as if fully set forth.

7 42. On or about May 29, 2019, Respondent was interviewed by a deputy and investigator  
8 from the Riverside County Sheriff's Department. During his interview, Respondent stated that  
9 Client A has Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) and denied ever doing energy work on her.  
10 Respondent indicated that Client A misconstrued the situation and he never performed energy  
11 work on any patient. He also stated that he never used tarot cards during his sessions.

12 43. Respondent never documented a diagnosis of BPD for Client A. Further, he never  
13 treated Client A for BPD, and it appears that he made this statement to discredit Client A's  
14 complaint against him.

15 44. Additionally, deputies interviewed other patients of Respondent who indicated that he  
16 discussed and proposed doing energy work and using tarot cards on them as well.

17 45. Respondent's acts, misrepresentations, and false statements to the investigator and  
18 deputy constitute dishonest and fraudulent acts.

19 **FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

20 (Functioning Outside One's Field of Competence)

21 46. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2960, subdivision (p),  
22 in that he functioned outside his field of competence as established by his education, training, and  
23 experience. The circumstances are as follows:

24 47. The allegations in paragraphs 12 through 20 and 33 through 39, above, are  
25 incorporated herein by reference and re-alleged as if fully set forth.

26 48. *Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct*, Standard 2.01 Boundaries  
27 of Competence, states in pertinent part:

28 (a) Psychologists provide services, teach, and conduct research with

1 populations and in areas only within the boundaries of their competence, based on  
2 their education, training, supervised experience, consultation, study, or professional  
3 experience.

4 49. Respondent encouraged Client A to delay and/or forgo other medical interventions on  
5 several occasions, despite not being properly educated or trained on cancer and its risks. Delay or  
6 failure to pursue needed medical advice and treatment can cause significant harm to the client.  
7 Respondent should not have substituted his judgment for the judgment of other competent  
8 medical professionals, and his actions constitute a departure from the standard of care.

### 9 **FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

10 (Confidentiality)

11 50. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2960, subdivision (h),  
12 and California Evidence Code section 1014, in that he violated patient confidentiality. The  
13 circumstances are as follows:

14 51. On or about an unknown date in August 2017, Respondent brought another client,  
15 E.D., into Client A's session. Client A did not consent to her presence and did not know she  
16 would be there. Respondent explained that he helped E.D. in the same way he was trying to help  
17 Client A. He indicated that E.D.'s mammogram was clear, as a result of his treatment.

18 52. Client A felt obligated to allow E.D. to stay in her session because E.D.'s husband  
19 supervised Client A's husband. During the session, Respondent and E.D. discussed his special  
20 abilities and Respondent read tarot cards about Client A. Respondent also had Client A complete  
21 a "cold read," after viewing a picture of E.D. and her family, and indicated that she also had  
22 special abilities.

23 53. The standard of care in California requires that patient confidentiality be protected.

24 54. *Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct*, Standard 4.01 Maintaining  
25 Confidentiality, states:

26 Psychologists have a primary obligation and take reasonable precautions to  
27 protect confidential information obtained through or stored in any medium,  
28 recognizing that the extent and limits of confidentiality may be regulated by law or  
established by institutional rules or professional or scientific relationship.

///

1 55. Respondent's practice of allowing another patient to attend and participate in Client  
2 A's session, without her consent, constitutes an extreme departure of the standard of care.

3 **SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

4 (Unprofessional Conduct)

5 56. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2960 in that he  
6 engaged in unprofessional conduct. The circumstances are as follows:

7 57. The allegations in the First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Causes for Discipline, in  
8 paragraphs 22 through 55, above, are incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth.

9 **PRAYER**

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

12 1. Revoking or suspending Registered Psychological Associate Number 94020884,  
13 issued to Vincent Shanks, PhD.;

14 2. Ordering Vincent Shanks to pay the Board of Psychology the reasonable costs of the  
15 investigation and enforcement of this case, and, if placed on probation, the costs of probation  
16 monitoring; and,

17 3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

18  
19  
20 DATED: September 9, 2022



21 ANTONETTE SORRICK  
22 Executive Officer  
23 Board of Psychology  
24 Department of Consumer Affairs  
25 State of California  
26 *Complainant*

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28 65330373.docx