

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE COMMITTEE OF  
PSYCHOLOGISTS AND JAMES BECKER  
REGARDING DISCIPLINE OF THE LICENSE OF JAMES BECKER

I.

Come now James Becker and the State Committee of Psychologists and enter into this Agreement for the purpose of resolving the question of whether James Becker's Psychologist license will be subject to discipline.

James Becker (hereinafter "Licensee") understands that this Agreement is in lieu of a trial-type hearing of the charges by the Administrative Hearing Commission where he would have the right to appear and be represented by legal counsel; the right to have all charges proven upon the record by competent and substantial evidence; the right to cross-examine any witnesses appearing at the hearing; the right to a decision upon the record by a fair and impartial administrative hearing commissioner concerning the charges pending, and subsequently, the right to a disciplinary hearing before the State Committee of Psychologists at which time evidence in mitigation of discipline may be presented; and the right to a claim for attorneys fees and expenses. Being aware of these rights, the parties knowingly and voluntarily waive each and every one of these rights and agree to abide by the terms of this document, in lieu of proceedings before the Administrative Hearing Commission.

II.

Licensee hereby stipulates with the State Committee of Psychologists to the following facts:

1. The State Committee of Psychologists "the Committee" is an agency of the State of Missouri created and established pursuant to Section 337.050, RSMo for the purpose of executing and enforcing the provisions of Chapter 337, RSMo.

2. The Licensee is licensed by the Committee as a Psychologist, License No. PY00727. The Licensee's Missouri license is current and active.

3. In late 1987, Respondent began therapy with patient A.L., who Licensee subsequently diagnosed as a borderline personality.

4. Licensee failed to maintain the appropriate therapist-patient boundary with patient A.L. in that:

A. Licensee accepted social invitation to patients apartment;

B. Licensee invited patient to his home. Licensee was in the hot tub when the patient arrived, and Licensee allowed the patient to visit him in this setting.

C. The patient and her boyfriend came to Licensee's home during a dispute. Licensee invited them in to discuss their problem. Licensee invited the patient to spend the night on his couch following the incident.

D. Licensee shared several details of his personal life with patient.

5. Through these behaviors, Licensee mishandled the therapeutic boundary with patient A.L.

6. Licensee's actions compromised the effectiveness of the therapeutic intervention.

7. Cause exists for discipline against Licensee's Psychologist License Pursuant to Section 337.035, RSMo.

### III.

In light of the foregoing stipulation of facts, Licensee and the Committee hereby consent and agree to the following disciplinary action to be imposed against license number PY00727 effective the date this document is signed by the Committee.

A. By agreement of the parties, License No. PY00727 of James Becker is placed on probation for a period of five (5) years under the following terms and conditions:

1. Within one (1) year of the effective date of this agreement, Licensee must complete a professional education course on the topic of individual psychotherapy approved by the State Committee of Psychologists. Such course must be taken in a department of psychology from a regionally accredited university for graduate credit of no less than three (3) semester hours. The licensee must obtain a grade of B or higher in the

course. Readings courses, correspondence courses or independent study courses are unacceptable.

2. Within one (1) year of the effective date of this agreement, Licensee must complete a professional education course on the topic of ethics approved by the State Committee of Psychologists. Such course must be taken in a department of psychology from a regionally accredited university for graduate credit of no less than three (3) semester hours. The licensee must obtain a grade of B or higher in the course. Readings courses, correspondence courses or independent study courses are unacceptable.
3. During the probationary period, licensee must inform licensee's clients/patients that licensee's work as a professional psychologist is under probation by the State Committee of Psychologists. Licensee must obtain written verification that each patient/client that licensee treats, evaluates, or consults has been so informed.
4. During the probationary period, licensee's practice as a professional psychologist shall be supervised on a weekly basis by a psychologist approved by the State Committee of Psychologists. If licensee has failed to secure a supervisor within twenty (20) days from the

start of probation the licensee shall cease practicing psychology until a supervisor is secured. Supervision includes full order and control of licensee's practice of professional psychology by the supervising psychologist. Licensee shall be responsible for any payment associated with the supervision.

5. In the event the supervising psychologist becomes unable or decides not to continue serving in his/her capacity as a supervising psychologist or otherwise ceases to serve as a supervising psychologist during the period of probation, then, the respondent shall:

a) within three (3) business days of being notified of the supervising psychologist's inability or decision not to continue serving as the supervising psychologist, advise the State Committee of Psychologists in writing that he/she is needing to secure a supervising psychologist and the reasons for such change; and

b) within twenty (20) days of being notified of the supervising psychologist's inability or decision not to continue serving as the supervising psychologist, or otherwise learning of the need to secure a supervising psychologist, secure a supervising psychologist pursuant to and in accordance with the terms and

conditions set forth in this stipulation. After twenty (20) days, the licensee shall not practice if he or she has not secured a supervisor.

6. Licensee's supervisor must report every six months to the State Committee of Psychologists on licensee's progress. It is licensee's responsibility to ensure that these reports are provided in a timely manner.
7. Licensee may not serve as a supervisor for any psychological trainee, psychological intern, psychological resident, psychological assistant, or any person undergoing supervision during the course of obtaining licensure as a psychologist, professional counselor, or social worker.
8. Licensee must keep the State Committee of Psychologists appraised at all times, in writing, of licensee's current home and work addresses and telephone numbers.
9. Licensee is required to pay to the State Committee of Psychologists, in a timely fashion, all requisite fees required by law to renew and keep current licensee's psychology license in Missouri.
10. Licensee is required to comply with all provisions of Chapter 337, RSMo, the rules and regulations duly promulgated by the State

Committee of Psychologists and state and federal criminal laws.

11. Licensee must provide periodic reports of licensee's compliance with this agreement every three months.

12. At Licensee's expense, licensee must agree to meet with the State Committee of Psychologists at reasonable intervals designated by the Committee.

B. Upon the expiration of the disciplinary period, the licensee's license as a psychologist in Missouri shall be fully restored, provided all provisions of this agreement and all other requirements of law have been satisfied.

C. If the State Committee of Psychologists determines that the licensee has violated a term or condition of his discipline, or has otherwise failed to comply with the provision of Chapter 337 RSMo, which violation would be actionable in a proceeding before the State Committee of Psychologist or the Administrative Hearing Commission or a Circuit Court, the State Committee of Psychologists may elect to pursue any lawful remedies or procedures afforded to it, and is not bound by this agreement and its selection of remedies concerning such violation.

D. The parties to this agreement understand that the State Committee of Psychologists will maintain this agreement as an open record of the Committee as provided in Chapter 337, 610, and 620 RSMo.

Effective this 30<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1992.  
(Effective date to be filled in by Executive Director/Secretary).

James Becker 4-19-92  
James Becker date  
Licensee

Dennis Buckelew 4/28/92  
Dennis Buckelew date  
Executive Director

Daryl R. Hylton  
Daryl R. Hylton date  
Assistant Attorney General