

1 Respondent is the registered agent, organizer, and “individual with direct knowledge” of the business.
2 Respondent registered the business to provide Professional Services in “other licensed profession per
3 ORS 58.015(5).”

4 3.3 On or before June 27, 2020, Respondent advertised his services in Psychology Today,
5 including representing that he provides Cognitive Behavioral therapy (CBT) and “family/marital”
6 therapy. The profile indicates that services are “confidential.” In that advertisement/profile,
7 Respondent reported that his services were provided at “ABA Counseling.”

8 3.4 On or about January 3, 2023, the Board’s investigator located an online profile of
9 “ABA (A Better Alternative) Counseling” which listed Respondent at the owner. (In 2011,
10 Respondent registered a business called “A Better Alternative Counseling” with the Oregon Secretary
11 of State Corporations Division; that registration expired in 2013.) The 2023 profile states that the
12 counseling practice provides professional counseling” services and describes it as a “non-residential *
13 * * counseling facility.”

14 3.5 Between at least May 2020 and December 2022, Respondent provided services to
15 numerous individuals in Oregon, and recording that he provided “couples counseling” or “marriage
16 counseling” to three couples, and treated individuals for “depression” and “PTSD.”

17 3.6 Following issuance of the Notice by the Board, Respondent clarified his practice to
18 cease practicing professional counseling or marriage and family therapy in Oregon and updated his
19 public advertising accordingly.

20 4.

21 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

22 By engaging in the conduct set forth above, Respondent engaged in conduct that violated
23 ORS 675.825 as described more specifically below:

24 4.1 675.825(1)(d)(A) in that Respondent engaged in the practice of professional
25 counseling or marriage and family therapy¹ without being a licensee or associate registered with the

26 _____
27 ¹ “Marriage and family therapy” is defined in ORS 675.705(6) and “professional counselling” is defined in ORS
675.705(7); “practicing” is defined in OAR 833-010-0001(22).

1 Board for an unknown period which included, at a minimum, May 2020, through at least December,
2 2022.

3 5.

4 5.1 The Board has authority to investigate complaints and alleged violations under ORS
5 675.785(5). The Board has jurisdiction over Respondent pursuant to ORS 675.825(4)(a) (*see also*,
6 ORS 675.715(1)(b)(C), OAR 833-030-0011(3) and OAR 833-040-0011(2)). The Board has authority
7 to impose a civil penalty and to assess the costs of the disciplinary process, including but not limited
8 to all legal costs from the Oregon Department of Justice, all hearing costs from the Office of
9 Administrative Hearings, all costs associated with any expert or witness, all costs related to security
10 and transcriptionist services for the hearing and administrative costs specific to this proceeding,
11 pursuant to ORS 675.745(4) and (7) and ORS 675.825(6).

12 5.2 Respondent and the Board desire to settle this matter by entry of this Stipulated Order.
13 Respondent acknowledges that he has the right to a contested case hearing under the Administrative
14 Procedures Act (Chapter 183), Oregon Revised Statutes, and fully and finally waives his right to a
15 contested case hearing and any appeal therefrom by the signing of and entry of this Order into the
16 Board's records. Respondent admits and the Board finds that Respondent engaged in the conduct
17 described above (section 3, Findings of Fact) and that this conduct violated the statutes and rules as
18 set forth above (section 4, Conclusions of Law).

19 6.

20 ORDER

21 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the following sanctions are imposed:

22 6.1 Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of \$2,500 to the Board within thirty (30) days of t
23 Effective Date of this Order. However, this civil penalty shall be STAYED for a period of one (1)
24 year from the Effective Date. If there have been no further violations of the nature or type described
25 in sections 3 and 4 above, nor any other instances of unlicensed practice, in the course of that year,
26 the civil penalty will be WAIVED and Respondent will not owe a civil penalty to the Board.

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1 6.2 Licensee shall pay the costs of the disciplinary process up to an amount of \$1,250, as
2 set forth in the bill of costs, no later than 90 days the Effective Date of this Order.

3 6.3 This Order is a public document that is reportable to the National Practitioner
4 Databank.

5 6.4 The Effective Date of this Order is the date it is signed by the Board's Chair or other
6 designee.


7 IT IS SO STIPULATED on this 12th day of June 2023.

8 

9
10 Richard Baska

11 IT IS SO ORDERED on this 8 day of August 2023.

12 Oregon Board of Licensed Professional
13 Counselors and Therapists

14 By 

15 Matthew Hatch
16 Board Chair