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BEFORE THE DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OF THE STATE OF UTAH

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF)	
BERNELL LEE CHRISTENSEN)	STIPULATION AND ORDER
TO PRACTICE AS A)	
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST)	CASE NO. DOPL 2010- <i>150</i>
IN THE STATE OF UTAH)	

BERNELL LEE CHRISTENSEN (“Respondent”) and the **DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING** of the Department of Commerce of the State of Utah (“Division”) stipulate and agree as follows:

1. Respondent admits the jurisdiction of the Division over Respondent and over the subject matter of this action.
2. Respondent acknowledges that Respondent enters into this Stipulation knowingly and voluntarily.

3. Respondent understands that Respondent has the right to be represented by counsel in this matter and Respondent's signature below signifies that Respondent has either consulted with an attorney or Respondent waives Respondent's right to counsel in this matter.

4. Respondent understands that Respondent is entitled to a hearing before the State of Utah's Marriage and Family Therapy Licensing Board ("the Board"), or other Division Presiding Officer, at which time Respondent may present evidence on Respondent's own behalf, call witnesses, and confront adverse witnesses. Respondent understands that by signing this document Respondent hereby waives the right to a hearing, the right to present evidence on Respondent's own behalf, the right to call witnesses, the right to confront adverse witnesses, and any other rights to which Respondent may be entitled in connection with said hearing.

Respondent understands that by signing this document Respondent hereby knowingly and intelligently waives the right to all administrative and judicial review as set forth in Utah Code Ann. §§ 63G-4-301 through 63G-4-405, and Utah Administrative Code R156-46b-12 through R156-46b-15. Respondent and the Division hereby express their intent that this matter be resolved expeditiously through stipulation as contemplated in Utah Code Ann. § 63G-4-102(4).

5. Respondent waives the right to the issuance of a Petition and a Notice of Agency Action in this matter.

6. Respondent acknowledges that this Stipulation and Order, if adopted by the Director of the Division, will be classified as a public document. The Division may release this Stipulation and Order, and will release other information about this disciplinary action against Respondent, to other persons and entities.

7. Respondent admits the following facts are true:

- a. Respondent was first licensed as a marriage and family therapist in the State of Utah on or about September 27, 1976.
- b. In May 2010 Respondent admitted to Division investigators that Respondent had regularly used religion as a part of his marriage and family therapy for the past thirty years. Respondent admitted that he lead prayers, quoted scripture, and performed blessings on clients.
- c. Respondent admits that Respondent failed to maintain appropriate boundaries with his clients and blurred the boundaries between marriage and family therapist and religious advisor.

8. Respondent admits that Respondent's conduct described above is unprofessional conduct as defined in Utah Code Ann. § 58-1-501(2)(a) and (b), Utah Administrative Code R156-60b-502(5), (6), and (19) and Principles 1.3, 1.7, 3.2, and 3.4 of the Code of Ethics of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapists; and that said conduct justifies disciplinary action against Respondent's license pursuant to Utah Code Ann. § 58-1-401(2)(a). Respondent agrees that an Order, which constitutes disciplinary action against Respondent's license by the Division pursuant to Utah Administrative Code R156-1-102(7) and Utah Code Ann. § 58-1-401(2), shall be entered in this matter that Respondent's license shall be publicly reprimanded for the conduct described above.

9. This Stipulation and Order, upon approval by the Director of the Division, shall be the final compromise and settlement of this non-criminal administrative matter. Respondent acknowledges that the Director is not required to accept the terms of this Stipulation and Order and that if the Director does not do so, this Stipulation and the representations contained therein shall be null and void, except that the Division and Respondent waive any claim of bias or prejudgment they might otherwise have with regard to the Director by virtue of the Director

having reviewed this Stipulation, and this waiver shall survive such nullification.

10. Respondent agrees to abide by and comply with all applicable federal and state laws, regulations, rules and orders related to the Respondent's licensed practice.

11. This document constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes and cancels any and all prior negotiations, representations, understandings or agreements between the parties regarding the subject of this Stipulation and Order. There are no verbal agreements that modify, interpret, construe or affect this Stipulation.

12. The accompanying Order becomes effective immediately upon the approval of this Stipulation and signing of the Order by the Division Director. Respondent shall comply with all the terms and conditions of this Stipulation immediately following the Division Director's signing of the Order page of this Stipulation and Order. Respondent shall complete all the terms and conditions contained in the Stipulation and Order in a timely manner. If a time period for completion of a term or condition is not specifically set forth in the Stipulation and Order, Respondent agrees that the time period for completion of that term or condition shall be set by the Board. Failure to complete a term or condition in a timely manner shall constitute a violation of the Stipulation and Order and may subject Respondent to revocation or other sanctions.

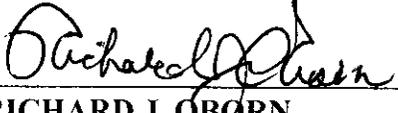
13. If Respondent violates any term or condition of this Stipulation and Order, the Division may take action against Respondent, including imposing appropriate sanction, in the manner provided by law. Such sanction may include revocation or suspension of Respondent's license, or other appropriate sanction.

14. Respondent has read each and every paragraph contained in this Stipulation and Order. Respondent understands each and every paragraph contained in this Stipulation and

Order. Respondent has no questions about any paragraph or provision contained in this
Stipulation and Order.

DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL &
PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

RESPONDENT

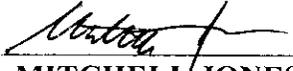
BY: 
RICHARD J. OBORN
Bureau Manager

BY: 
BERNELL LEE CHRISTENSEN

DATE: 5/5/10

DATE: 5/5/10

MARK L. SHURTLEFF
ATTORNEY GENERAL

BY: 
L. MITCHELL JONES
Counsel for the Division

DATE: 5 May 2010

ORDER

THE ABOVE STIPULATION, in the matter of **BERNELL LEE CHRISTENSEN**, is hereby approved by the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing, and constitutes my Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this matter. The issuance of this Order is disciplinary action pursuant to Utah Administrative Code R156-1-102(7) and Utah Code Ann. § 58-1-401(2). The terms and conditions of the Stipulation are incorporated herein and constitute my final Order in this case.

DATED this 5 day of May, 2010.

DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL AND
PROFESSIONAL LICENSING


MARK B. STEINAGEL
Director

Investigator: Brittany Butsch