IN THE MATTER OF	*	**BEFORE THE MARYLAND**
JAMES E. ROEMBKE JR., PSY.D.	*	**BOARD OF EXAMINERS**
PSYCHOLOGIST	*	**OF PSYCHOLOGISTS**
License No. 3421	*	**Case No. 2021-008**

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CONSENT ORDER

HISTORY

The Maryland Board of Examiners of Psychologists (the "Board") received a complaint concerning the practice of Dr. James Roembke, Psychologist, License No. 3421, from a former supervisee (the "Supervisee"). The Supervisee specifically alleged that while supervising him at a group psychological practice (the "Practice"), Dr. Roembke blurred the lines between a personal relationship and a supervisory relationship, became uncomfortably close to the Supervisee, and used language and actions that the Supervisee deemed informal, overly familiar, and inappropriate. Upon review of the complaint and the materials provided, the Board was concerned that Dr. Roembke failed to maintain appropriate boundaries with the Supervisee, specifically to the extent he created a dual relationship with the Supervisee and made him uncomfortable with inappropriate language and actions.

In lieu of instituting formal proceedings against Dr. Roembke, in accordance with the Maryland Psychologists Act, Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 18-101 *et seq.*, and Board regulations, COMAR 10.36.01, a Pre-charge Case Resolution Conference ("CRC") was held with members of the Board, Board Counsel, Dr. Roembke, and Dr. Roembke's counsel. On June 4, 2021, the Board heard the matter and on the affirmative vote of a majority of its members then serving agreed to enter into a Consent Order with the Respondent.

The current 2025 Board members and Dr. Roembke agreed to resolve this matter as set forth in this Consent Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. At all times relevant hereto, Dr. Roembke was licensed by the Board to practice as a psychologist in Maryland, License No. 3421. Dr. Roembke was first licensed by the Board on December 12, 1997; his license is currently active and is set to expire on March 31, 2027.

2. During the fourth year of his psychology program, the Supervisee joined the Practice for an externship program, where Dr. Roembke was assigned to be his supervisor. Dr. Roembke and the Supervisee were to meet once a week for an hour to discuss the Supervisee's clinical caseload. The Supervisee noted that, from the outset, the supervision was based as much on his personal relationship with Dr. Roembke as it was on his clinical work; Dr. Roembke said he hoped they would have a "lasting friendship." The Supervisee stated he was not surprised because other staff members told him Dr. Roembke liked to have special relationships with his supervisees.

3. The Supervisee became uncomfortable early on with the dual relationship forming between himself and Dr. Roembke, noting that Dr. Roembke was over complementary towards him, invited him (but not Dr. Roembke's other supervisee) to a one-on-one dinner, gave him an expensive sweater as a gift, and began hugging him when they interacted. The Supervisee also felt that some language used by Dr. Roembke was overly sexualized, which made him uncomfortable. According to the Supervisee, he mentioned his discomfort to Dr. Roembke on several occasions; Dr. Roembke would apologize but later return to his inappropriate ways.

4. The Supervisee stated that he felt Dr. Roembke's "transgressions were escalating" and that he decided to make a complaint to the Practice when it became apparent to him that Dr. Roembke knew he was "ambivalent" to their personal relationship but kept on pushing a friendship. According to the Supervisee, the Practice did not sufficiently address his complaint in a way that ensures no one will be placed in the same position as him in the future.

5. During the course of its investigation, the Board heard from two other former supervisees who expressed that they had overall positive experiences with Dr. Roembke but also felt uncomfortable with some personal interactions with Dr. Roembke and his issues with boundaries. For his part, Dr. Roembke stated the issue was with his psychodynamic method of supervision and what he believed to be strong transference responses to supervision as can be expected. He reported that the supervision method had been successful in the past though he realized now that it was not appropriate for all supervisory relationships.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes that Dr. Roembke is subject to discipline pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 18-313(7), (12), (17), and (20), and COMAR 10.36.05.03A(3)(e), 10.36.05.07B(1) & (3), and 10.36.05.07D(3).

ORDER

It is this 7 day of March 2025, by an affirmative vote of the Maryland Board of Examiners of Psychologists, hereby:

ORDERED that Dr. Roembke's license be placed on immediate PROBATION for a period of at least ONE (1) YEAR, during which he shall:

1. Obtain ongoing clinical supervision from a Board-approved psychologist supervisor with a minimum of one (1) supervisory session per month, with terms and conditions of the supervision to be determined by the supervisor, and ensure that his supervisor provides quarterly reports to the Board; and
2. Sign up for and complete an ethics tutorial with a Board-approved psychologist ethics tutor, with a focus on boundary issues, with terms and conditions of the tutorial (including the length of the tutorial and frequency of tutoring sessions) to be determined by the tutor, and ensure that his ethics tutor provides a report to the Board at the conclusion of the tutorial; and be it further,

ORDERED that after one (1) year of probation, Dr. Roembke may petition the Board to terminate probation, provided that he has been fully compliant with the terms of probation and does not have any pending complaints filed against him; and be it further,

ORDERED that Dr. Roembke shall agree and consent to the release by the Board, to his supervisor and ethics tutor, the complete investigative file in this case; and be it further,

ORDERED that Dr. Roembke shall at all times cooperate with the Board in the monitoring, supervision, and investigation of his compliance with the terms and conditions of this Order; and be it further,

ORDERED that Dr. Roembke's failure to fully cooperate with the Board shall be deemed a violation of the probationary terms and a violation of this Order; and be it further,

ORDERED that in the event the Board finds in good faith that Dr. Roembke has violated any of the conditions of probation herein, or in the event the Board finds in good faith that Dr. Roembke has committed a violation of Title 18 of the Health Occupations Article or regulations adopted thereunder, the Board may impose further disciplinary action against his license, including suspension or revocation, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing; and be it further,

ORDERED that Dr. Roembke shall bear the expenses associated with this Order; and be it further,

ORDERED that this is a formal order of the Maryland Board of Examiners of Psychologists and as such is a public document pursuant to Maryland Code Ann., Gen. Provisions § 4-333(b).

March 7, 2025

Brenda Terry-Leonard, Ph.D.
Chair, MD Board of Examiners of Psychologists

CONSENT

1. By signing this Consent, I hereby affirm the findings of fact contained herein and agree to be bound by the foregoing Consent Order and its conditions.
2. By this Consent, I submit to the foregoing Consent Order as a resolution of this matter. By signing this Consent, I waive any rights I may have had to contest the findings and determinations contained in this Consent Order.
3. I acknowledge that this is a formal order of the Board and as such is a public document.
4. I acknowledge the legal authority and the jurisdiction of the Board to enter and enforce this Consent Order.
5. I sign this Consent Order freely and voluntarily, after having had the opportunity to consult with counsel. I fully understand the language, meaning, and effect of this Consent Order.

4/5/2025
Date

James Roembke, Psy.D.

STATE OF MARYLAND
COUNTY/CITY OF Frederick :

I hereby certify that on this 5th day of April, 2025, before me, a Notary Public of the State of Maryland and County/City aforesaid, personally appeared JAMES ROEMBKE, and made an oath in due form that the foregoing Consent was his voluntary act and deed.

Notary Public
My commission expires: 7-29-28

SANDRA SANTOS
Notary Public - State of Maryland
Frederick County
My Commission Expires Jul 29, 2028