BEFORE THE INDIANA STATE
PSYCHOLOGY BOARD

CAUSE NO.: 95 PB 002

STATE OF INDIANA,

Petitioner,

v.

ALAN THOMAS MATTAR, Ph.D.,
License No.: 20040845,

Respondent.

FILED
MAR 01 1995
HEALTH PROFESSIONS
BUREAU

EMERGENCY SUSPENSION ORDER

The Indiana State Psychology Board ("Board") pursuant to the authority of IC 4-21.5-4-1 et seq. and IC 25-1-9-10, by a vote of 6 to 0, finds that an emergency exists and that Respondent represents a clear and immediate danger to public health and safety if allowed to continue to practice psychology in this State and **SUMMARILY SUSPENDS** the psychology license and endorsement as a Health Services Provider in Psychology ("HSP") , number 20040845, held by Alan Thomas Mattar, Ph.D., ("Respondent") for ninety (90) days. This **NON-FINAL** emergency suspension order is based on the following evidence received by the Board during its regularly scheduled meeting on February 17, 1995:

1. The sworn testimony of Mr. Gary Daniel, who testified as follows:

a) He began to see Dr. Mattar on or about October of 1994 with complaints of depression and issues relating to his now-deceased father. Mr. and Mrs. Daniel together were present for all sessions, except one. Mr. Daniel did not seek Christian counseling from Dr. Mattar. Dr. Mattar immediately initiated discussions involving demons and

spirits which were oppressing Mr. Daniel and that his depression was not his biggest problem.

b) Dr. Mattar advised Mrs. Daniel that she and her children were at risk from the demons as they might leave Mr. Daniel's body at any time and inhabit someone else. Dr. Mattar advised Mrs. Daniel to never allow any of their children to be alone with their father, and he also advised her to have no physcial contact with her husband. This advice has led to considerable stress and emotional difficulties for all of the family.

c) Dr. Mattar advised Mr. Daniel that the demon which killed his father was trying to kill him.

In or about January 1995, Mr. Daniel taped a counseling session with Dr. Mattar. The Board listened to the tape and made it a part of the record, as State's Exhibit A, with leave granted to the State to have said tape transcribed and said transcription substituted for the tape, as State's Exhibit A.

2. The sworn testimony of Dr. Elgan Baker, PhD, who testified as follows:

a) He and his partner, Dr. Bart Ferraro, PhD, wrote a letter dated February 6, 1995, to the Attorney General's Office, attached and incorporated as State's Exhibit B, detailing their concerns with Dr. Mattar's treatment practices regarding Mr. Daniel.

b) He and Dr. Ferraro had listened to the treatment tape with Mr. and Mrs. Daniel, after which time they had serious concerns regarding this type of therapy, and the obvious, serious effects such therapy was having on Mr. and Mrs. Daniel.

c) He was not able to offer any acceptable treatment purpose for the demonic and or spiritual inhabitation focus of the sessions.

d) He and Dr. Ferraro had attempted to discuss the situation with Dr. Mattar, but were unsuccessful due to Dr. Mattar's complete refusal to discuss the situation. Dr. Mattar told him that he was not concerned with the APA or the state board, because he answered to a higher power. Dr. Mattar also told him he would quit psychology if this is what you have to put up with to practice.

e) He viewed this situation as particularly distressing in that he had taught Dr. Mattar as an intern, and had recruited him to be an independent contractor for his practice, and felt that he knew Dr. Mattar very well.

f) His group practice does not and has not offered religious counseling of any type.

3. The sworn testimony of Dr. Bart Ferraro, PhD, who testified as follows:

a) He is a partner and colleague of Dr. Baker's and that he drafted and signed the letter of February 6, 1995, faxed to the Attorney General's Office on February 15, 1995. (State's Exhibit B)

b) He and Dr. Baker had interviewed both Mr. and Mrs. Daniel, and also listened to the tape of the January 1995 session.

c) Since he and Dr. Baker attempted to talk with Dr. Mattar about this situation, Dr. Mattar has become withdrawn and has isolated himself from people in the office. Dr. Mattar refused to discuss the situation because he wanted to conserve his energy to deal with the situation.

d) The treatment file for Mr. Daniel was missing from the records room when, with the client's consent, he and Dr. Baker attempted to secure it for further review.

WHEREFORE, RESPONDENT IS ORDERED to immediately cease all acts constituting the practice of psychology for a period of ninety (90) days from the date of this Order.

Further, the Board finds that Respondent's mental and physical health are at issue and **ORDERS** that Respondent shall within five days of receipt of this Order:

1. Submit to the Board the names, addresses and telephone numbers of three Psychologists who are licensed and in good standing in Indiana, practicing in Indiana, and who are not close personal friends of Dr. Mattar, from which the Board will select one psychologist to conduct a full and complete psychological exam. Respondent shall provide an exact copy of this Emergency Suspension Order, with all exhibits attached, to the evaluating psychologist. The results of such evaluation, including copies of all tests utilized and the results of such tests, shall immediately be sent directly to the Board and to the Office of the Attorney General; and

2. Submit to the Board the names of three Indiana licensed physicians, who are currently in good standing and who are Board Certified and practicing Psychiatry in this state from which the Board will select one psychiatrist to conduct a full and complete psychiatric exam including the determination of the absence or presence of organic dysfunction in Respondent. Respondent shall provide an exact copy of the Board's Emergency Suspension Order, with all exhibits attached, to the evaluating psychiatrist. The results of such evaluation,

including copies of all tests utilized and the results of such, shall immediately be sent directly to the Board and to the Office of the Attorney General; and

3.) Provide a list of three Board certified, licensed in good standing in Indiana, practicing in Indiana, internal medicine physicians or osteopaths from whom the Board will select one individual to conduct a full, complete and intensive physical work-up upon Dr. Mattar. The results of such exams shall immediately be sent directly to the Board and to the Office of the Attorney General.

Pursuant to IC 4-21.5-4-4 upon request by the Respondent, the Board shall, as quickly as practicable, set this matter for an evidentiary hearing and an administrative law judge shall determine whether this Order shall be voided, terminated, modified, stayed or continued.

SO ORDERED this 17 day of March , 1995, nunc pro tunc to February 17, 1995.

INDIANA STATE PSYCHOLOGY BOARD

By: _____
Laura Langford
Executive Director
Health Professions Bureau

cc: Alan Thomas Mattar, PhD
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