# BEFORE THE ARIZONA BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

In the Matter of:

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Michael P. Flores, Applicant for the Practice of Optometry, In the State of Arizona. CASE NO. 2024-00254

## CONSENT AGREEMENT FOR ISSUANCE OF LICENSE

#### RESPONDENT

In the interest of a prompt and speedy settlement of the above captioned matter, consistent with the public interest, statutory requirements and responsibilities of the Arizona State Board of Optometry ("Board"), and pursuant to A.R.S. §§32-1744 and 41-1092.07, Michael P. Flores ("Respondent") and the Board enter into this Consent Agreement, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order ("Consent Agreement") as a final disposition of this matter.

## **RECITALS**

Respondent understands and agrees that:

- Any record prepared in this matter, all investigative materials prepared or received by the Board concerning the allegations, and all related materials and exhibits may be retained in the Board's file pertaining to this matter.
- 2. Respondent has the right to a formal administrative hearing at which Respondent can present evidence and cross examine the State's witnesses. Respondent hereby irrevocably waives their right to such formal hearing concerning these allegations and irrevocably waives their right to any rehearing or judicial review relating to the allegations contained in this Consent Agreement.
- Respondent has the right to consult with an attorney prior to entering into this Consent Agreement.

- 4. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that upon signing this Consent Agreement and returning it to the Board's Executive Director, Respondent may not revoke their acceptance of this Consent Agreement or make any modifications to it. Any modification of this original document is ineffective and void unless mutually approved by the parties in writing.
- 5. The findings contained in the Findings of Fact portion of this Consent Agreement are conclusive evidence of the facts stated herein between only Respondent and the Board for the final disposition of this matter and may be used for purposes of determining sanctions in any future disciplinary matter.
- 6. This Consent Agreement is subject to the Board's approval, and will be effective only when the Board accepts it. In the event the Board in its discretion does not approve this Consent Agreement, this Consent Agreement is withdrawn and shall be of no evidentiary value, nor shall it be relied upon or introduced in any disciplinary action by any party hereto, except that Respondent agrees that should the Board reject this Consent Agreement and this case proceeds to hearing, Respondent shall assert no claim that the Board was prejudiced by its review and discussion of this document or of any records relating thereto.
- Agreement is solely to settle this Board matter and does not preclude the Board from instituting other proceedings as may be appropriate now or in the future. Furthermore, and notwithstanding any language in this Consent Agreement, this Consent Agreement does not preclude in any way any other state agency or officer or political subdivision of this state from instituting proceedings, investigating claims, or taking legal action as may be appropriate now or in the future relating to this matter or other matters concerning Respondent, including but not limited to violations of Arizona's Consumer Fraud Act. Respondent acknowledges that, other than with

respect to the Board, this Consent Agreement makes no representations, implied or otherwise, about the views or intended actions of any other state agency or officer or political subdivision of the state relating to this matter or other matters concerning Respondent.

- 8. Respondent understands that once the Board approves and signs this Consent Agreement, it is a public record that may be publicly disseminated as a formal action of the Board, and that it shall be reported as required by law to the National Practitioner Data Bank.
- 9. Respondent further understands that any violation of this Consent Agreement may constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. §32-1701(8)(1) and may result in disciplinary action pursuant to A.R.S. §32-1744(F)(7).
- 10. The Board therefore retains jurisdiction over Respondent and may initiate disciplinary action against Respondent if it determines that they have failed to comply with the terms of this Consent Agreement or of the practice act.

The Board issues the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order:

## FINDINGS OF FACT

- On April 1, 2024, Respondent submitted his application by examination to practice as an optometrist in the State of Arizona.
- In the Fall of 2009, Respondent entered the Arizona College of Optometry at Midwestern University, to pursue his doctor of optometry degree.
- In March of 2019, Respondent graduated from the Arizona College of Optometry at Midwestern University, as a doctor of optometry.
- In August of 2023, Respondent passed his NBEO examination (National Board of Examiners in Optometry).

- Respondent has not participated in clinical practice since his graduation from the
   Arizona College of Optometry at Midwestern University in March of 2019.
- 6. In support of his application, Respondent provided proof of attendance of the following continuing education courses:
- a. April 5-7, 2024, Arizona Optometric Association Spring Congress.
   A.A.C. R4-21-210(A)(2)(b).
- b. April 20, 2024, the 12th Annual Residents' Day Arizona College of Optometry at Midwestern University. A.A.C. R4-21-210(A)(2)(a).

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- The Board has jurisdiction over Respondent pursuant to A.R.S. §32-1701 et seq and the rules promulgated by the Board relating to Respondent's professional practice as a licensed Optometrist.
- 2. The conduct and circumstances described in the Findings of Fact constitute a violation of A.R.S. §32-1722(B)(D); A.R.S. §32-1701(8)(g) and A.A.C. R4-1021-103(E)(i), regarding Respondent's ability to competently safely practice optometry.

#### ORDER

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the parties agree to the provisions imposed as follows:

- Respondent's license, upon issuance, shall be placed on probation for from July 1,
   2024 through August 2, 2025.
- During the term of probation, Respondent's practice shall be restricted to the terms of his participation in The Vision Center of West Phoenix Optometry Residency program under the supervision of Residency Coordinator Roger Juarez, O.D. Respondent shall submit a

copy of the executed consent order to Roger Juarez, O.D. Respondent shall cause Roger Juarez, O.D. to submit documentation in writing to the Board that he has received a copy of the consent order within 10 business days.

- 3. Respondent shall cause Roger Juarez, O.D. to submit bi-monthly progress reports to the Board, commencing on August 1, 2024, on a Board approved form which will provide the Board with an update regarding Respondent's professional and clinical performance in the residency program. The final report shall also contain a recommendation as to whether Respondent should be released from this Consent Agreement for independent practice.
- 4. Respondent shall submit quarterly self-reports to the Board, for the following quarters: September 30, 2024, December 31, 2024, March 31, 2025, and June 30, 2025, on a Board-approved form. The quarterly self-reports shall be provided to the Board within five (5) business days from the aforementioned dates.
- 5. Respondent shall appear before the Board regarding compliance with this order when requested. Respondent shall appear before the Board to request termination of the term of probation for a review of his compliance with the terms of his probation and whether he has successfully completed the residency program.
- 6. In addition to the continuing education requirements of A.A.C. R4-21-209, Respondent shall successfully complete the 2024 Educational Retina Conference, on June 30, 2024. Upon completion, Respondent shall submit a certificate of completion of the continuing education to the Board.
- 7. This Consent Agreement is conclusive evidence of the matters described herein and may be considered by the Board in determining appropriate sanctions in the event a

subsequent violation occurs. Noncompliance with the terms of this consent order may result in 1 2 additional disciplinary sanctions. 3 This Consent Agreement shall be effective on July 1, 2024. 8. 4 Respondent shall bear all costs relating to probation terms required in this 9. 5 Consent Agreement. 6 Respondent shall be responsible for ensuring that all documentation required in 10. 7 this Consent Agreement is provided to the Board in a timely manner. 8 /// 9 111 10 RESPONDENT ACCEPTS, SIGNS AND DATES THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT 11 07/03/2024 Date 12 13 Michael-P. Flores, O.D. 14 15 BOARD ACCEPTS, SIGNS AND DATES THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT 16 By: 17 Date Margaret Whelan, Executive Director 18 Arizona State Board of Optometry 19 ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed on July 8, 20 21 Arizona State Board of Optometry 22 1740 West Adams Street, Suite 3003 Phoenix, AZ 85007 23 24

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1	EXECUTED COPY of the foregoing sent electronically on July 8, 2029
2	to:
3	Michael P. Flores 4318 E Saint Catherine Ave Phoenix, AZ 85042 Respondent
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