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**BEFORE THE DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
STATE OF UTAH**

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF
JODI NAN HILDEBRANDT
UTAH LICENSE # 5315496-6004
TO PRACTICE AS A CLINICAL MENTAL
HEALTH COUNSELOR
IN THE STATE OF UTAH

DEFAULT ORDER

CASE NO. DOPL 2024-96

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Division of Professional Licensing (“the Division”) filed a Notice of Agency Action in this matter on March 28th, 2024, against Jodi Nan Hildebrandt (“Respondent”).
2. Respondent is, and at all times relevant to this proceeding has been, licensed to practice as a clinical mental health counselor in the State of Utah. Respondent was first licensed as a clinical mental health counselor on or about July 7, 2005.
3. On or about August 31, 2023, Respondent was arrested on suspicion of Aggravated Child Abuse. Respondent was subsequently charged with six counts of Aggravated Child Abuse, all second-degree felonies, in the Fifth District Court, case no. 231501763.
4. On or about December 27, 2023, Respondent entered guilty pleas to four counts of Aggravated Child Abuse, all second-degree felonies.
5. In connection with her guilty pleas, Respondent signed a Statement of Defendant in Support of Guilty Plea, in which she admitted that the following facts describe her conduct and support her guilty pleas:

- a. From approximately May 22, 2023 until August 30, 2023, in Washington County, Utah, the defendant Jodi Hildebrandt, intentionally or knowingly inflicted and allowed another adult to inflict serious physical injuries upon two children living in her residence that were ages 9 (EF) and 11-12 (RF) as more fully described below.
- b. (Count 1) The defendant's actions involved the physical torture of RF. Initially RF was forced to do physical tasks for hours and days at a time. These included wall-sits, carrying boxes full of books up and down stairs, and working outside. Eventually RF was forced to do outside labor without shoes and in the summer heat. He was forced to stand in the direct sunlight for several days. He was forced to remain outside at all hours of the day and night for extended periods of time. These actions resulted in repeated and serious sunburns with blistered and sloughing skin. RF was denied adequate water for several of the days he was required to remain in the summer heat, and he was punished when he secretly consumed water. He was denied sufficient food, and when given food he was given very plain meals (e.g. rice and chicken) while others in the house ate regular and more flavorful meals. He was isolated from other people and denied all forms of entertainment including books, notebooks, and electronics.
- c. In addition, after RF attempted to run away in July, his hands and feet were regularly bound. Binding included being tied to an adult and to weights. Many times, the binding included using two sets of handcuffs, one on RF's wrists and one on his ankles. At times, with RF lying on his stomach, ropes were used to tie the two sets of handcuffs together so that his arms and lower legs were lifted off the ground. The bindings resulted in injuries to RF's wrists and ankles where the handcuffs cut through the skin and damaged the muscle/tissue. These injuries were treated with homeopathic remedies and covered with duct tape. Then the bindings were placed on top of the duct tape.
- d. (Count 2) The actions described above caused severe emotion harm to RF due to the fact that they began in May and escalated throughout the summer months. Additionally, the defendant and another adult regularly sought to indoctrinate RF and convince him that: (1) he was evil and possessed, (2) he needed to willingly be obedient to avoid punishments, and (3) the punishments were necessary to repent. He was also told that everything that was being done to him were acts of love.
- e. (Count 3) The defendant's actions also caused severe emotional harm to EF. Other than binding and the specific instances of abuse RF was subjected to, EF was subjected to the same treatment as her brother: she was isolated and forced to do the physical tasks, remain outside, and denied food and water. She was also repeatedly told she was evil and possessed, the punishments were necessary for her to be obedient and to repent, and these things were being done to her in order to help her. EF was convinced that she was evil and needed to go through these things in order to repent.
- f. (Count 4) The defendant's actions caused two or more physical injuries to EF. She was forced to work outside in the heat barefoot. She was also forced to run barefoot on dirt

roads for an extended period of time. EF's feet were repeatedly injured and she was repeatedly sunburned. When examined on August 30, these wounds were apparent by scabs, blisters, and sloughing skin. Additionally, the defendant either physically forced or coerced EF to jump into a cactus multiple times.

6. On or about February 20, 2024, based on the pleas described above, Respondent was sentenced to four consecutive terms of 1-15 years in prison.
7. These crimes, when considered with the functions and duties of Respondent's profession, bear a substantial relationship to Respondent's ability to safely or competently practice the profession.
8. Respondent has not filed a response to the Notice of Agency Action.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

9. Pursuant to Utah Code § 63G-4-209(1)(a) and Utah Admin. Code R151-4-710, Respondent's failure to respond to the Notice of Agency Action or otherwise participate in this adjudicative proceeding constitutes a sufficient basis for entry of default against Respondent.
10. By engaging in the conduct described above, Respondent has engaged in unprofessional conduct, in violation of Utah Code § 58-1-501(2)(a)(iii), which defines "unprofessional conduct" to include "...engaging in conduct that results in conviction ... with respect to a crime that, when considered with the functions and duties of the profession for which the license was issued ..., bears a substantial relationship to the licensee's ... ability to safely or competently practice the profession[.]"
11. Pursuant to Utah Code § 58-1-401(2), Respondent's unprofessional conduct constitutes a basis to revoke Respondent's license.

ORDER

Respondent's default is hereby entered. After careful consideration of this matter, the findings of fact and conclusions of law are adopted by the Division Director. Respondent's license is hereby revoked, effective immediately.

DATED May 10, 2024

DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING



MARK B. STEINAGEL
Division Director