BEFORE THE ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF TECHNICAL REGISTRATION

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In the Matter of: Kevin Howard

**Certified Home Inspector** Certification No. 39408

Case No.: HI24-011

CONSENT AGREEMENT ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

Respondent

In the interest of a prompt and judicious resolution of the above-captioned matter before the Arizona State Board of Technical Registration ("Board") and consistent with the public interest, statutory requirements, and the responsibilities of the Board, and pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-101 et seq., and A.A.C. R4-30-120(G), the undersigned party, Kevin Howard ("Respondent"), holder of Certification No. 39408, and the Board enter into the following Recitals, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order ("Consent Agreement") as a final disposition of this matter.

# RECITALS

- 1. Respondent has read and understands this Consent Agreement and has had the opportunity to discuss this Consent Agreement with an attorney, or has waived the opportunity to discuss this Consent Agreement with an attorney.
- 2. Respondent understands that he has a right to a public administrative hearing concerning this case and acknowledges that at such formal hearing he could present evidence and cross-examine witnesses. By entering into this Consent Agreement. Respondent knowingly, voluntarily, and irrevocably waives his right to such an administrative hearing, as well as rights of rehearing, review, reconsideration, appeal, judicial review or any other administrative and/or judicial action concerning the matters set forth herein.
- Respondent affirmatively agrees that this Consent Agreement shall be irrevocable.

- 4. Respondent understands that this Consent Agreement or any part of the agreement may be considered in any future disciplinary action by the Board against him.
- 5. Respondent understands this document, any record prepared in this matter, all investigative materials prepared or received by the Board, and all related exhibits and materials are public records upon acceptance by the Board of this Consent Agreement and may be retained in the Board's files pertaining to this matter.
- 6. Respondent understands this Consent Agreement deals with Board case number HI24-011 involving allegations that Respondent engaged in conduct that would subject him to discipline under the Board's statutes and rules. The investigation into these allegations against Respondent shall be concluded upon the Board's adoption of this Consent Agreement.
- 7. Respondent understands that this Consent Agreement does not constitute a dismissal or resolution of any other matters currently pending before the Board, if any, and does not constitute any waiver, express or implied, of the Board's statutory authority or jurisdiction regarding any other pending or future investigation, action or proceeding.
- 8. Respondent understands that acceptance of this Consent Agreement does not preclude any other agency, subdivision, or officer of this State from instituting any other civil or criminal proceedings with respect to the conduct that is the subject of this Consent Agreement.
- 9. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that, upon signing this Consent Agreement and returning this document to Board staff, he may not revoke his acceptance of the Consent Agreement or make any modifications to the document regardless of whether the Consent Agreement has been signed on behalf of the Board. Any modification to this original document is ineffective and void unless mutually agreed by the parties in writing.
- 10. Respondent understands this Consent Agreement is subject to the approval of the Board and is effective only when accepted by the Board and signed on behalf of the Board. If the Board does not accept this Consent Agreement, the Board retains its

authority to hold a formal administrative hearing pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-128(E). In the event that the Board does not approve this Consent Agreement, it shall be withdrawn and of no evidentiary value and shall not be relied upon nor introduced in any action by any party, except that the parties agree 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 any records relating thereto.

- 11. Respondent understands if a court of competent jurisdiction rules that any part of this Consent Agreement is void or otherwise unenforceable, the remainder of the Consent Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.
- 12. Respondent understands that any violation of this Consent Agreement may result in disciplinary action, including suspension or revocation of the registration under A.R.S. § 32-150.
- 13. Respondent agrees that the Board will adopt the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order.

### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 1. The Board is the duly constituted authority for the regulation and control of the practice of Home Inspection in the State of Arizona.
- 2. Respondent is the holder of Arizona Certified Home Inspector Certification No. 39408, issued by the Board on June 10, 2003.
- 3. At all times relevant to the allegations of this Consent Agreement, Arizona Home Inspector Certification No. 39408 was active.
- 4. On or about August 29, 2023, the Board received a complaint regarding a home inspection conducted by Respondent in Mesa, Arizona. Specifically, the complaint alleged the Respondent:
  - a. failed to provide temperature readings;
  - b. failed to reach out to the realtor or homeowner to unlock the thermostats to enable accurate readings; and
  - c. falsely alleged the home required a full replacement of both AC units.

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- 5. On or about November 24, 2023, a technical review of the inspection report was conducted. The technical review contained the following findings:
  - a. The initial allegation as presented in the complaint was not substantiated; and
  - b. The inspection report failed to include or report upon the following missing and/or deficient Standards of Practice (S.O.P.s):
    - I. the firm address as required per S.O.P. 2.2.A.3;
    - II. structural column type and condition as required per S.O.P.4.1.A.4 and 4.2.A.4;
    - III. plumbing supply system supports and insulation as required per S.O.P. 7.1.A.1;
    - IV. electrical service condition as required per S.O.P. 8.1.B;
    - V. oversized breakers or undersized conductors (compatibility condition) as required per S.O.P. 8.1.D;
    - VI. condition of stairs as required per S.O.P. 11.1.B;
    - VII. condition of stair railing as required per S.O.P. 11.1.B;
    - VIII. laundry room ventilation as required per S.O.P. 12.1.C;
    - IX. potential cross connections as required per Pools & Spas S.O.P. 3.1.D;
    - X. type of pool cleaning system as required per Pools & Spas S.O.P. 3.2.A.5;
    - XI. heater automatic safety controls as required per Pools & Spas S.O.P. 3.1.C. The deficiency with regards to S.O.P. 3.1.C was identified as a potential threat to health and/or life safety.
    - XII. presence of entrapment prevention components as required per Pools & Spas S.O.P. 3.1.I. The deficiency with regards to S.O.P. 3.1-I was identified as a potential threat to health and/or life safety.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. The Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-101, et seq.
- 2. The conduct alleged in the Findings of Fact constitutes grounds for discipline pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-128(C)(4) as it relates to A.A.C. R4-30-301.01, in that Respondent may have failed to conduct a Home Inspection in accordance with the Standards of Professional Practice for Arizona Home Inspectors.

## <u>ORDER</u>

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Board issues the following Order:

- 1. LETTER OF REPRIMAND. Respondent is hereby issued a Letter of Reprimand.
- 2. ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY. Within sixty (60) days from the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent shall pay an administrative penalty of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) by certified check or money order made payable to the State of Arizona Board of Technical Registration.
- 3. COST OF INVESTIGATION. Within sixty (60) days from the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent shall pay the cost of investigation of this case to the Board in the amount of One Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) by certified check or money order made payable to the State of Arizona Board of Technical Registration, according to the provisions of A.R.S. § 32-128(H).
- 4. OBEY ALL LAWS. Respondent shall obey all federal, state, and local laws as well as all rules governing the practice of Home Inspection in the State of Arizona. The Board shall consider any violation of this paragraph to be a separate violation of the rules and statues governing the Arizona Board of Technical Registration. The Board may also consider Respondent's non-compliance with this Order as a separate violation of A.R.S. § 32-150.
- 5. RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION. Respondent and Respondent Firm shall timely renew their Arizona registration as an Certified Home Inspector and Home

Inspection Firm, and timely pay all required registration fees.

- 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. The effective date of this Consent Agreement is the date the Respondent and Board sign the Consent Agreement. If the dates are different, the effective date is the later of the two dates.
- 7. COSTS OF COMPLIANCE. Respondent shall pay all costs associated with complying with this Consent Agreement.
- 8. NONCOMPLIANCE. If Respondent violates this Order in any way or fails to fulfill the requirements of this Order, the Board, after giving notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke, suspend or take other disciplinary actions against the registration. The issue at such a hearing will be limited solely to whether this Order has been violated.

ACCEPTED and ORDERED this 29th day of September , 2024.

Whichael Folgita

Michael Kolejka, R.A., Chairman Arizona State Board of Technical Registration

Consent Agreement and Order, No. HI24-011 accepted this 18 day of 2024.

Kevin Howard, Respondent

1	ORIGINAL filed this 20 <sup>th</sup> day of
2	September, 2024, with:
3	Arizona State Board of Technical Registration
4	1110 W. Washington, Suite 240
5	Phoenix, AZ 85007
6	COPY of the foregoing mailed via Certified Mail No.9214 1901 9434 4600 0981 90 and
7	First Class mail this 30 Fh day of September, 2024, to:
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9	Kevin Howard
10	22571 South 227th Way
11	Queen Creek, AZ 85142
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13	Naudina Cauterd
14	By: Kaulyn Crauford
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