

# STATE OF MAINE BOARD OF NURSING 158 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0158

MYRA A. BROADWAY, J.D., M.S., R.N. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 18, 2012

Suzanne Hackett, LPN 3 Old County Road Veazie, ME 04401

Dear Ms. Hackett:

Pursuant to your meeting with the Board on November 28, 2012, this will confirm that the Board voted to reinstate your licensed practical nursing license.

Best wishes for a healthy and happy nursing career~

Sincerely,

Myra A. Broadway, MD, MS, RN

MyaDwadway

**Executive Director** 

MAB/jcw

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John E. Richards, Asst. Attorney General pc:



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### STATE OF MAINE BOARD OF NURSING 158 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0158

PAUL R. LEPAG GOVERNOR MYRA A. BROADWAY, J.D., M.S., R.N.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IN RE: SUZANNE S. HACKETT, L.P.N.	)	CONSENT AGREEMENT
of Veazie, Maine	)	FOR VOLUNTARY SURRENDER
License No. P008271	)	OF LICENSE

#### INTRODUCTION

This document is a Consent Agreement ("Agreement") regarding Suzanne S. Hackett's license to practice licensed practical nursing in the State of Maine. The parties to this Agreement are Suzanne S. Hackett ("Ms. Hackett" or "Licensee"), Maine State Board of Nursing ("Board") and the Office of the Attorney General, State of Maine. The parties enter into this Agreement pursuant to 32 M.R.S. § 2105-A (1-A) (C), 10 M.R.S. §§ 8003 (A-1) (4), 8003 (5) (B) and 10 M.R.S. § 8003 (5) (D). The parties reached this Agreement on the basis of the following two Board Complaints: 1) Notice dated February 22, 2010, with Provider Reports from Bangor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center ("BNRC") received February 11 & 17, 2010; and 2) Notice dated October 21, 2011 with Provider Reports from Brewer Rehab and Living Center ("BRLC") received September 27 and October 17, 2011.

### **FACTS**

- 1. Suzanne S. Hackett has been licensed by the Board as a licensed practical nurse to practice in Maine since May 21, 1984. At the time of the incidents discussed in this Agreement, Ms. Hackett held an active nursing license.
- 2. Suzanne S. Hackett's employment at BNRC was terminated on January 21, 2010 for suspicion of drug diversion following an investigation which revealed that Ms. Hackett had allegedly been medicating residents with morphine sulfate nebulizers. In one case, Ms. Hackett allegedly administered 25 morphine sulfate nebulizer treatments to a single patient during a two-month time frame. In addition, according to the investigation, Ms. Hackett disposed of morphine sulfate and other controlled medications on several occasions without a witness, which is a violation of the BNRC policy and applicable nursing standards. The Board Notice of Complaint dated February 22, 2010, with the above information, is incorporated within this Agreement, is attached hereto and marked as Exhibit 1.
- 3. Suzanne S. Hackett's employment at BRLC was terminated on September 26, 2011 for drug seeking behavior, including attempting/offering reasons to utilize narcotic drawers and access used sharps containers. During her exit interview with BRLC staff, Ms. Hackett admitted that she had a problem with substance abuse. BRLC staff transported Ms. Hackett to the hospital for evaluation and possible admission. BRLC noted that, during her time with BRLC, Ms. Hackett demonstrated genuine care and compassion for her patients. The foregoing information is attached hereto and incorporated within this Agreement as Exhibit 2.
- 4. On October 20, 2011, Ms. Hackett met with a subcommittee of the Board in an informal conference regarding these matters. Following the informal conference, the subcommittee of the Board voted to offer Ms. Hackett this Agreement to resolve the matters described above.

## **AGREEMENT**

5. In lieu of a hearing before the Board, Suzanne S. Hackett agrees to voluntarily surrender her licensed practical nurse license. The Maine State Board of Nursing will accept Suzanne S. Hackett's offer to voluntarily surrender her licensed practical nurse license, License No. P008271.



- Suzanne S. Hackett understands that based upon the above-stated facts, this document imposes discipline regarding her license to practice as a licensed practical nurse in the State of Maine. The grounds for discipline for violations are under 32 M.R.S.§ 2105-A(2)(A), (2)(B), (2)(F), (2)(H) and Chapter 4, sections 1(A)(1), 1(A)(2), 1(A)(6), 1(A)(8) and Chapter 4, sections 3(K), 3(P) and 3(Q) of the Rules and Regulations of the Maine State Board of Nursing. Specifically, the violations are:
  - a. M.R.S. § 2105-A (2) (A). The practice of fraud and deceit in connection with service rendered within the scope of the license issued to Ms. Hackett by diverting scheduled drugs for her own personal use. (See also Rule Chapter 4. Section 1.A.1)
  - b. M.R.S. § 2105-A (2) (B). Habitual substance abuse that has resulted or is foreseeably likely to result in Ms. Hackett performing services in a manner that endangers the health or safety of patients. (See also Rule Chapter 4. Section 1.A.2)
  - c. M.R.S. § 2105-A (2) (F). Unprofessional Conduct. Ms. Hackett engaged in unprofessional conduct because she violated a standard of professional behavior that has been established in the practice for which she is licensed. (See also Rule Chapter 4, Section 1.A.6)
  - d. M.R.S. § 2105-A (2) (H). A violation of this chapter or a rule adopted by the Board. (See also Rule Chapter 4, Section 1.A.8)
  - e. Rule Chapter 4, Section 3. Unprofessional Conduct: "Nursing behavior which fails to conform to legal standards of the nursing profession, and which could reflect adversely on the health and welfare of the public shall constitute unprofessional conduct and shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:"
    - Chapter 4, Section 3(K). Ms. Hackett inaccurately recorded, falsified and altered a health care provider record.
    - 2) Chapter 4, Section 3(P). Ms. Hackett diverted drugs from a health care provider.
    - 3) Chapter 4, Section (Q). Ms. Hackett possessed, obtained and administered prescription drugs to herself, except as directed by a person authorized by law to prescribe drugs.
- Suzanne S. Hackett neither admits nor denies the facts contained herein, however she acknowledges that if this matter went to a hearing before the Board it is more likely than not the above-stated facts and the underlying investigative information would support the licensing violations in this Agreement.
- 8. Suzanne S. Hackett understands and agrees that her license will remain on surrender status and subject to the terms of this Agreement indefinitely, until and unless the Board, at Ms. Hackett's written request and following her demonstration of one (1) year of sobriety, votes to reinstate Ms. Hackett's license. Ms. Hackett agrees and understands that if the Board reinstates her license, it will be with conditions and for a probationary period.
- 9. The State of Maine is a "Party state" that has adopted the Nurse Licensure Compact ("Compact"), which is set out in Chapter 11 of the Rules and Regulations of the Maine State Board of Nursing. The State of Maine is Ms. Hackett's "Home state" of licensure and primary state of residence, which means that Ms. Hackett has declared the State of Maine as her fixed permanent and principle home for legal purposes; her domicile. Other Party states that are in the Compact are referred to as "Remote states," which means Party states other than the Home state that have adopted the Compact. Ms. Hackett understands this document is a Consent Agreement that is subject to the Compact.
- 10. Ms. Hackett understands that she does not have to execute this Agreement and that she has the right to consult with an attorney before entering into the Agreement.
- Suzanne S. Hackett shall not work or volunteer, in any capacity, for a health care provider as defined by Title 24 M.R.S. § 2502 (2) or in any position holding herself out as a licensed practical nurse or with the designation "L.P.N.," including in a veterinarian's office, while her nursing license is surrendered. In addi-

tion, Ms. Hackett is not to seek employment where the handling or dispensing of drugs is part of the job responsibility.

- 12. This Agreement is a public record within the meaning of 1 M.R.S. § 402 and will be available for inspection and copying by the public pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 408.
- 13. Modification of this Agreement must be in writing and signed by all parties.
- 14. This Agreement is not subject to review or appeal by the Licensee, but may be enforced by an action in the Superior Court.
- 15. Suzanne S. Hackett affirms that she executes this Agreement of her own free will.
- 16. This Agreement becomes effective upon the date of the last necessary signature below.

I, SUZANNE S. HACKETT, L.P.N., HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE FOREGOING CONSENT AGREEMENT. I UNDERSTAND THAT BY SIGNING IT, I WAIVE CERTAIN RIGHTS. I SIGN IT VOLUNTARILY, KNOWINGLY, AND INTELLIGENTLY AND AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THIS AGREEMENT. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT CONTAINS THE ENTIRE AGREEMENT AND THERE IS NO OTHER AGREEMENT OF ANY KIND.

DATED: 12.01.2011

FOR THE MAINE STATE

BOARD OF NURSING

DATED: 12/10/11

MYRA'A. BROADWAY, J.D.(M.S., R.N.

**Executive Director** 

DATED: 12/12/11

DENNIS E. SMITH

**Assistant Attorney General** 

FOR THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL