



Maine State Board of Nursing

295 WATER STREET
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330

In re:)	CONSENT AGREEMENT
Joanne M. Cookson, L.P.N.,)	PURSUANT TO 32 M.R.S.A.
of Augusta, Maine)	§ 2105-A(1-A)(C)

This Consent Agreement is entered into by and among Joanne M. Cookson (hereinafter "Ms. Cookson"), the Maine State Board of Nursing (hereinafter "the Board") and the State of Maine Department of the Attorney General, following an informal conference, held pursuant to 32 M.R.S.A. § 2105-A(1-A), on September 15, 1988.

The informal conference, which was properly noticed and attended by the parties, addressed an August 11, 1988 complaint filed against Ms. Cookson by her former employer, Merrill Memorial Manor, and Ms. Cookson's response to the complaint filed with the Board on August 22, 1988. Following the conference, the Board made the following findings of fact:

A. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Ms. Cookson's prior work record is good.
2. Although there were allegations that Ms. Cookson, while at work, had an odor of alcohol, Ms. Cookson denies consuming alcohol during her shift.

3. Ms. Cookson admits committing medication errors by failing to administer certain ordered medications. There was no documented harm which was the direct result of these errors, however.

4. Ms. Cookson admits to increased personal stress during the period when she committed the medication errors.

5. Ms. Cookson has received no counseling or information about alcohol abuse.

B. COVENANTS

Pursuant to 32 M.R.S.A. § 2105-A(1-A)(B), the Board voted to place Ms. Cookson on probation for a period of one year. The one year probationary period will begin on the date of commencement of Ms. Cookson's next employment in nursing. Ms. Cookson understands and agrees to the probationary period with the following conditions:

1. Ms. Cookson will submit to an initial assessment by a registered substance abuse counselor (R.S.A.C.) within two months from the date of the execution of this agreement and will ensure submission to the Board of the report of this initial assessment by the R.S.A.C.

2. Ms. Cookson will obtain formal counseling from a R.S.A.C. if recommended by the initial assessment. Ms. Cookson will arrange to have quarterly reports from her R.S.A.C. submitted to the Board. She waives any claims of confidentiality and privilege she may have with respect to these reports.

3. If employed as a nurse, Ms. Cookson will arrange to have quarterly reports submitted to the Board from her nurse/employer. She waives any claims of confidentiality and privilege she may have with respect to these reports.

4. The Board will take no further action on the complaint of August 11, 1988 if Ms. Cookson complies with these conditions.

Ms. Cookson understands that this document is a Consent Agreement which affects her rights to practice nursing in Maine. Ms. Cookson understands that she does not have to execute this Consent Agreement and that she has the right to consult with an attorney before entering this Consent Agreement. Ms. Cookson affirms that she executes this Consent Agreement of her own free will.

Dated: 10-5-88

Joanne M. Cookson, LPN
JOANNE M. COOKSON, L.P.N.

MAINE STATE BOARD OF NURSING

Dated: 10/11/88

Jean C. Caron
By: JEAN C. CARON, R.N.
Executive Director

Dated: 10/12/88

Martha F. Willard
MARTHA F. WILLARD
Assistant Attorney General
Counsel to the Board