

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

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IN RE: DARNELL J. COOLIDGE, LPN	)	CONSENT AGREEMENT
of Livemore, Maine	)	FOR WARNING AND
License No. PN11761	)	PROBATION

## INTRODUCTION

This document is a Consent Agreement ("Agreement") regarding Darnell J. Coolidge's license as a licensed practical nurse ("LPN") in the State of Maine. The Parties to this Agreement are Darnell J. Coolidge ("Licensee" or "Ms. Coolidge"), Maine State Board of Nursing ("Board") and the Office of the Attorney General, State of Maine. The Parties met in an informal conference on October 20, 2011 and reached this Agreement on the basis of a Board Complaint dated April 22, 2010, with an attached Provider Report from Falmouth by the Sea ("Falmouth") dated April 21, 2010, and Ms. Coolidge's response dated May 20, 2010. The Parties enter into this Agreement pursuant to 32 M.R.S. §§ 2105-A-(1-A) (A), 2105-A-(1-A) (B) and 10 M.R.S. §§ 8003(5) (A-1) (4) and 8003(5) (B).

## **FACTS**

- 1. Darnell J. Coolidge has been a licensed practical nurse licensed to practice in Maine since December 15, 1999.
- 2. Darnell J. Coolidge was terminated from Falmouth as a result of performance issues involving medication errors, lack of pain assessment documentation, wound care documentation, lack of physician notification regarding patients' change of conditions and substandard documentation for daily wound care and the administration of controlled substances. The Board Complaint with the Provider Report from Falmouth and Ms. Coolidge's response are attached hereto, incorporated herein and marked as Exhibit A.
- 3. Darnell J. Coolidge has agreed to resolve this matter by entering into this Agreement and waives her right to a hearing.

## **AGREEMENT**

- 4. Darnell J. Coolidge acknowledges that the Board has evidence from which it could conclude that there is a violation of Title 32 M.R.S. §§ 2105-A (2) (F) (2), (2) (H) and Chapter 4.1.A.6., 4.1.A.8., Chapter 4.3.F of the Rules and Regulations of the Maine State Board of Nursing ("Board Rules"). Darnell J. Coolidge acknowledges that her conduct in the above-stated facts constitutes grounds for discipline. Ms. Coolidge is hereby formally WARNED and placed on PROBATION for a term of five (5) years of nursing practice. Specifically, the violations are:
  - a. 32 M.R.S. § 2105-A (2) (F) (2). Ms. Coolidge engaged in unprofessional conduct that violates standards of professional behavior practice that have been established in the practice for which she is licensed. See: Board Rule Chapter 4, Section 1.A.6.
  - b. 32 M.R.S. § 2105-A (2) (H). Ms. Coolidge violated a statute and rules adopted by the Board. See: Board Rule Chapter 4, Section 1.A.8.

- c. Board Rule: Chapter 4, Section 3. Defines "Unprofessional Conduct" as mursing behavior which fails to conform to legal standards of the nursing profession, which could reflect adversely on the health and welfare of the public, which includes Chapter 4, Section 3(F). Specifically, Ms. Coolidge failed to follow policies and procedures designed to safeguard a patient at Falmouth in that she failed to follow appropriate standards of nursing practice for medication administration and documentation.
- 5. Darnell J. Coolidge's LPN license is placed on probationary status with conditions. The period of probation will be for a period of five (5) years, effective only while she is employed in nursing practice and/or enrolled in a clinical nursing educational program. Her probationary license will be subject to the following conditions:
  - a. Darnell J. Coolidge shall fully cooperate with the representatives of the Board in its monitoring and investigation of her compliance with probation. She shall inform the Board in writing within 15 days of any address change.
  - b. Darnell J. Coolidge will notify the Board in writing within five business days after she obtains or changes any nursing employment and/or an educational program in the field of nursing. Notice under this section shall include the place and position of employment or the nursing educational program. If during the period of probation, Ms. Coolidge's employment as a nurse or her educational program in the field of nursing terminates, she shall notify the Board in writing within five business days after she is terminated or separated, regardless of cause, with a full explanation of the circumstances.
  - c. Darnell J. Coolidge will notify any and all of her nursing employers and/or faculties involved in any clinical studies of the terms of this Agreement and provide them with a copy of it.
  - d. Darnell J. Coolidge will arrange for and ensure the submission to the Board of quarterly reports from her nursing employer and/or clinical faculty regarding her general nursing practice including adherence to policies and procedures, patient assessment, pain assessment and documentation of medication administration.
- 6. Darnell J. Coolidge agrees and understands that her license will remain on probationary status and subject to the terms of this Agreement beyond the above-referenced probationary period until and unless the Board, at her written request, votes to terminate her probation. When considering whether to terminate the probation, the Board will consider the extent to which Ms. Coolidge has complied with the provisions of this Agreement.
- 7. If Ms. Coolidge violates any other condition of her probation, the Board will give written notice to the Licensee regarding her failure to comply. She has 30 days from receipt of this notification to respond to the Board, in writing, regarding the alleged violation. The Board will review the Licensee's response to determine what action, if any, it determines to take. If the Licensee fails to timely respond to the Board's notification regarding her failure to comply, her license will be immediately suspended pending a hearing at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. If after notice and a hearing, the Board finds that the Licensee has failed to meet the conditions of probation, the Board may take any disciplinary action which it deems appropriate and impose any of the sanctions including, but not limited to, that found in Title 10 M.R.S. § 8003 and Title 32 M.R.S. § 2105-A.
- 8. 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 Board Rules. The State of Maine is Ms. Coolidge's "Home state" of licensure and primary state of residence, which means that she has declared the State of

Maine as her fixed permanent and principle home for legal purposes; her domicile. Other Party states in the Compact are referred to as "Remote states," which means Party states other than the Home state that have adopted the Compact. Ms. Coolidge understands this document is an Agreement that is subject to the Compact.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that while Ms. Coolidge's license is subject to this Agreement, she may not work outside the State of Maine pursuant to a multistate licensure privilege without the written permission of the Maine State Board of Nursing and the Board of Nursing in the Party state in which she wishes to work.

- 9. Darnell J. Coolidge understands that she does not have to execute this Agreement and has the right to consult with an attorney before entering into the Agreement.
- 10. Modification of this Agreement must be in writing and signed by all Parties.
- 11. 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.
- 12. This Agreement is not subject to review or appeal by Ms. Coolidge, but may be enforced by an action in the Superior Court.
- 13. This Agreement becomes effective upon the date of the last necessary signature below.

I, DARNELL J. COOLIDGE, LPN, HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE FOREGOING CONSENT AGREEMENT. I UNDERSTAND THE EFFECT IT WILL HAVE ON MY LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE LICENSE. 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: (0/27) 12

DARNELL J. COOLIDGÉ, LPN

FOR THE MAINE STATE BOARD OF NURSING

DATED: 6/28/12

MYRAJA. BROADWAY, J.D., M.S., R.N.

**Executive Director** 

FOR THE OFFICIA OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

dated: <u>6/29/</u>12

JOHN HARICHARDS

<u>Assistant Attorney General</u>