BEFORE THE MAINE STATE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF LICENSE NO. R019624 ISSUED TO:

BARBARA A. FRITZE

ORDER TERMINATING PROBATION

To practice registered professional nursing in the State of Maine

WHEREAS, on April 13, 2000, License No. R019624 issued to Barbara A. Fritze was placed on "probation" pursuant to 32 M.R.S.A. Section 2105-A (1-A); and

WHEREAS, on December 5, 2002, the Board of Nursing duly considered all evidence presented to it concerning Barbara A. Fritze's compliance with the conditions of said probation; and

WHEREAS, the Board found that Barbara A. Fritze has completed all of the Order;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is ordered that the Order of Probation executed on June 30, 2000 is hereby terminated.

DATED this 5th day of December 2002.

MAINE STATE BOARD OF NURSING

BY: Myra A. Broadway, J.D., M.S., R.N.
    Executive Director
IN RE: BARBARA A. FRITZE, R.N.,
Of Hallowell, Maine
License #R019624

CONSENT AGREEMENT

INTRODUCTION

This document is a Consent Agreement regarding Barbara A. Fritze’s license to practice professional nursing in the State of Maine. The parties enter into this Agreement pursuant to 10 M.R.S.A. § 8003(5)(B) and 32 M.R.S.A. § 2105-A(1-A). The parties to this Consent Agreement are Barbara A. Fritze, Maine State Board of Nursing ("Board") and the Department of Attorney General, State of Maine.

The parties reached this Agreement following an informal conference on April 13, 2000 regarding information submitted by State of Maine, Department of Human Services, Bureau of Medical Services, Division of Licensing & Certification, Assisted Living Unit by letter, with attachments, dated November 9, 1998.

FACTS

1. Barbara A. Fritze has been a registered professional nurse, licensed by the Board to practice in Maine since July 1976.

2. Barbara A. Fritze has never had a Board of Nursing disciplinary action taken against her in the State of Maine.

3. Barbara A. Fritze was employed at Chapel Street Residence ("CSR"), a licensed Level II Assisted Living Facility in Augusta for a 9 month period. Her job title at CSR was Charge Nurse and Nurse Consultant. As the only nurse professional in the facility, her duties and responsibilities included staff guidance, supervision and training.

4. The State of Maine, Department of Human Services, Bureau of Medical Services received a complaint alleging verbal and emotional abuse of a patient at CSR. An investigation of the complaint substantiated numerous deficiencies regarding the Chapel Street Residence including a lack of appreciation of residents' rights, described more specifically in the Department’s Survey Report, dated October 9, 1998.

5. Barbara A. Fritze stated that it was her intention to resign her employment at Chapel Street Residence; however, before she took this action her position was terminated on October 31, 1998.

6. Barbara A. Fritze denies any verbal or emotional abuse of patients at CSR.

7. Barbara A. Fritze does acknowledge having modeled unsafe medication administration practices.

AGREEMENT

8. Barbara A. Fritze agrees and understands that her alleged conduct may constitute grounds for discipline under 32 M.R.S.A. § 2105-A(2)(E), (2)(F), and (2)(H), however, the Board agrees to impose conditions of probation for a period of 12 months and take no disciplinary action upon these facts so long as Ms. Fritze completes 20 continuing education units in the following areas:
a. Legal issues related to nursing;
b. Advocacy of patient's rights within the regulatory system; and,
c. Regulatory oversight of nursing practices.

9. During the period of probation, Barbara A. Fritze will notify any and all of her nursing employers of the terms of this Consent Agreement and shall provide them with a copy of it.

10. Barbara A. Fritze will arrange for and ensure the submission to the Board of quarterly reports from her nursing employer.

11. Barbara A. Fritze's failure to comply with the conditions of probation is a ground for disciplinary action against the licensee.

12. Ms. Fritze understands that she does not have to execute this Consent Agreement and that she has the right to consult with an attorney before entering the Consent Agreement.

13. Barbara A. Fritze affirms that she executes this Consent Agreement of her own free will.

14. Modification of this Consent Agreement must be in writing and signed by all parties.

15. This Consent Agreement is not subject to review or appeal by the Licensee, but may be enforced by an action in the Superior Court.

16. This Consent Agreement becomes effective upon the date of the last necessary signature below.

DATED: [28-05] Barbra A. Fritze, R.N.
BARBARA A. FRITZE, R.N.

JOHN E. LAROUCHE, ESQ.
Attorney for Barbara A. Fritze, R.N.

DATED: June 28, 2000 [Signature] Myra A. Broadway, J.D., M.S., R.N.
MYRA A. BROADWAY, J.D., M.S., R.N.
Executive Director

JOHN H. RICHARDS, ESQ.
Assistant Attorney General