



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

ANGUS S. KING, JR.
 GOVERNOR

JEAN C. CARON, M.S., R.N.
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In re: **Ruth C. Galarraga, L.P.N.**)
 of Saco, ME) **CONSENT AGREEMENT**
 License #P010566) **REGARDING WARNING**

INTRODUCTION

This document is a Consent Agreement regarding Ruth Galarraga's license to practice practical nursing in the State of Maine, entered into pursuant to 32 M.R.S.A. Section 2105-A(1-A)(B) and 10 M.R.S.A. Section 8003(5)(B). The parties to this Consent Agreement are: Ruth Galarraga, L.P.N., the Maine State Board of Nursing ("Board") and the Department of Attorney General, State of Maine.

By letter dated February 21, 1996, Ms. Galarraga was advised by the Board that it had received a letter dated February 16, 1996, with attachments, from Patricia Murray, R.N., Administrator, Evergreen Manor, containing information that Ms. Galarraga may be in violation of 32 M.R.S.A. Section 2105-A(2)(B), (2)(E) and (2)(F). The Board received Ms. Galarraga's letter in response on March 19, 1996. On September 12, 1995, the Board met with Ms. Galarraga to discuss the matter in an informal conference conducted pursuant to 32 M.R.S.A. Section 2105-A(1-A). Ms. Galarraga was represented at the informal conference by M. Thomasine Burke, Esq. This consent agreement is the result of that informal conference.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Ms. Galarraga admits that she failed to properly chart morphine on the medication administration record ("MAR") although she states that she always documented the administration of medication in the narcotic book.
2. Ms. Galarraga denies diverting medications.
3. There are discrepancies and write-overs in the narcotics sheets regarding Ms. Galarraga's administration of medications.
4. Ms. Galarraga administered more pain medication than other staff to one particular patient; however, Ms. Galarraga's administration of the medication was consistent with the physician's order.
5. Other staff expressed their gratitude that Ms. Galarraga was medicating this particular patient more frequently.
6. Ms. Galarraga has been terminated from her employment at Evergreen Manor.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND DISCIPLINE

1. Ms. Galarraga agrees and understands that her inadequate documentation of medication administration violates the standard of professional behavior that has been established for the practice of nursing.

2. Ms. Galarraga is hereby **WARNED** for her actions in this matter, and is advised to conform her future conduct in accordance with the established standards of professional behavior.
3. The Board agrees to take no further action upon these facts so long as Ms. Galarraga complies with this consent agreement.
4. Ms. Galarraga understands that this document imposes discipline regarding her license to practice practical nursing in the State of Maine. Ms. Galarraga 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. Galarraga affirms that she executes this consent agreement of her own free will.

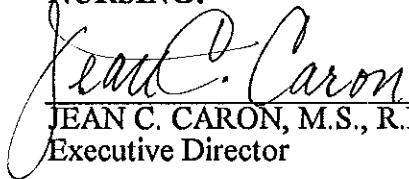
This Consent Agreement becomes effective upon the date of the last necessary signature below.

DATED: 9/28/96


RUTH C. GALARRAGA, L.P.N.


FOR THE MAINE STATE BOARD OF NURSING:

DATED: 10/8/96


JEAN C. CARON, M.S., R.N.
Executive Director

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL:

DATED: 10/9/96


SUSAN A. SPARACO
Assistant Attorney General
Counsel to the Board