



MAINE STATE BOARD OF NURSING

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In re:) CONSENT AGREEMENT
Valerie A. Sawyer) REGARDING VOLUNTARY
of Harrington, Maine) SURRENDER OF LICENSE
License #P009330)

INTRODUCTION

This document is a Consent Agreement regarding Valerie A. Sawyer'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: Valerie A. Sawyer, L.P.N., the Maine State Board of Nursing ("Board"), and the Department of Attorney General, State of Maine.

By letter dated March 3, 1993, Ms. Sawyer was advised by the Board that it had received a letter dated February 23, 1993, from Michelina A. Frey, R.N., Director of Nursing at Narraguagus Bay Health Care Facility, containing information that Ms. Sawyer may have violated 32 M.R.S.A. Section 2105-A(2)(B), (2)(E) and (2)(F). Ms. Sawyer wrote to the Board surrendering her license on March 15, 1993 and then responded to the Board in a letter dated March 19, 1993. Subsequently, the Board requested that Ms. Sawyer attend an informal conference on June 15, 1993 pursuant to 32 M.R.S.A. Section 2105-A(1-A). Ms. Sawyer was present and was not represented by counsel.

FINDINGS OF FACT

As a result of the informal conference, the Board made the following findings of fact:

1. Ms. Sawyer admits to diverting copious amounts of narcotics from the Narraguagus Bay Health Care Facility, but denies that any patients were deprived of needed medication as a result of her actions.
2. Ms. Sawyer admits to taking these narcotics while on duty.
3. Ms. Sawyer has completed an in-patient rehabilitation treatment program and is currently in aftercare and a 12-step self-help recovery program.

4. Ms. Sawyer voluntarily surrendered her license to practice practical nursing.
5. Ms. Sawyer states that she has been substance-free since February 16, 1993.
6. Ms. Sawyer was terminated from her employment as a result of her actions.
7. Ms. Sawyer states that she has a long history of substance abuse.
8. Ms. Sawyer has a spouse who is supportive of her recovery.

COVENANTS

Based on the above findings of fact, the Board voted to enter in an agreement with Ms. Sawyer under which she will voluntarily surrender her license for a period of one year from February 16, 1993. The Board will accept the voluntary surrender of Ms. Sawyer's license under the following conditions:

1. Ms. Sawyer will remain free of non-prescribed substances.
2. Ms. Sawyer will continue in her prescribed aftercare treatment and self-help program, and will arrange to have quarterly reports submitted to the Board from her substance abuse treatment provider. Ms. Sawyer waives any claims of confidentiality and privilege which she may have with respect to these reports.
3. Ms. Sawyer will undertake no employment in any position in the field of health care.
4. The Board agrees to take no further disciplinary action upon these facts so long as Ms. Sawyer fully complies with these conditions. The Board will consider reinstatement of Ms. Sawyer's license at the February 1994 Board meeting, at which time the Board will consider the degree to which Ms. Sawyer has complied with these conditions.
7. Ms. Sawyer understands that this document is a Consent Agreement which affects her rights to practice nursing in Maine. Ms. Sawyer 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. Sawyer affirms that she executes this Consent Agreement of her own free will.

DATED: 6.28.93

Valerie A. Sawyer
VALERIE A. SAWYER

FOR THE MAINE STATE BOARD OF
NURSING:

DATED: 6/29/93

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

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL:

DATED: 6/30/93

Tim W. Collier
TIMOTHY W. COLLIER
Assistant Attorney General
Counsel to the Board