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BEFORE THE KANSAS STATE BOARD OF NURSINGLandon State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson #1051
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1230**IN THE MATTER OF
BETHEEN ARMSTRONG
License No. 13-61391-071****Case No. 08-762-6**

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**FINAL ORDER
AND CONSENT AGREEMENT**

NOW ON THIS 26 day of April, 2011, the Kansas State Board of Nursing, represented by Assistant Attorney General, Danielle R. Sanger, and the Respondent, Betheen Armstrong, hereby enter into this agreement and proffer evidence and the hearing officer adopts those recommendations and makes the following findings of fact and orders:

AGREED FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent is licensed to practice nursing in Kansas through 7/31/2011. The Kansas State Board of Nursing (KSBN) has jurisdiction over the Respondent and the subject matter of this action.
2. Respondent's address of record is 110 N. Vine, Caney KS 67333-2425.
3. The Respondent understands that pursuant to K.S.A. 77-515, Respondent may be represented, at Respondent's expense, by an attorney during these proceedings.
4. Respondent acknowledges that this agreement is an open record pursuant to the Kansas Open Records Act, K.S.A 45-215 *et seq.*, and may be published or disseminated.
5. The Kansas State Board of Nursing shall examine, license and renew licenses of duly qualified applicants under the authority of K.S.A. 74-1106 *et seq.* Under the authority of K.S.A. 65-1120, the Kansas State Board of Nursing may deny, revoke, limit or suspend a license or authorization to practice nursing or may issue a public or private censure

and levy administrative fines, consistent with K.S.A. 74-1110, if a violation of K.S.A. 65-1120 is established.

6. On or about 7/18/2008, the Kansas State Board of Nursing received a report alleging that while Respondent was employed by Coffeyville Regional Medical Center in Coffeyville Kansas, she delegated IV administration to non-IV certified LPN's, and she provided her personal password to others so they could document in the medical record under her name as if she had completed the delegated work herself.
7. In a letter dated 3/3/2010, Respondent was informed that the Kansas State Board of Nursing received information that she may have violated the Kansas Nurse Practice Act, and case # 08-762-6 was opened in order to investigate the claims alleged against her.
8. On or about 03/9/2010, the Kansas State Board of Nursing investigator spoke with an LPN witness from Coffeyville Regional Medical Center who stated that Respondent had delegated to her the administration of an IV medication when she was a non-IV certified LPN. Furthermore, the LPN witness stated that Respondent gave the LPN's her badge so the LPN's could get into the computer and document things that the Respondent never did.
9. In a letter dated 6/17/2010, Respondent was informed that the Investigative Committee of the Kansas State Board of Nursing reviewed her case on 6/14/2010, and it was the decision of the Committee to refer her case to the Board's disciplinary counsel for further disposition.
10. The above incidents are violations of the Nurse Practice Act. The Respondent agrees that the Board is prepared to prove that Respondent has violated:
 - a. Count 1: K.S.A. 65-1120(a)(1), to be guilty of fraud or deceit in practicing nursing.
 - b. Count 2: K.S.A 65- 1120(a)(6), to be guilty of unprofessional conduct by KAR 60-3-110(d), inaccurately recording, falsifying, or altering any record of a patient or agency or of the board;

- c. Count 3: K.S.A. 65-1120(a)(6), to be guilty of unprofessional conduct by KAR 60-3-110(h), delegating any activity that requires the unique skill and substantial specialized knowledge derived from the biological, physical, or behavioral sciences and judgment of the nurse to an unlicensed individual in violation of the Kansas nurse practice act or to the detriment of patient safety.
11. Respondent has the right to a hearing with evidence and witnesses and to seek review of the findings from that hearing in accordance with the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act and the Act for Judicial Review and Civil Enforcement of agency actions. Respondent is waiving those rights and voluntarily entering into this agreement instead of proceeding to such a hearing.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

12. The Kansas State Board of Nursing has the authority under K.S.A. 74-1106 *et seq.* to examine, license and renew licenses for duly qualified Respondents and deny, revoke, limit or suspend a license or authorization to practice nursing, may issue a public or private censure and levy administrative fines consistent with K.S.A. 74-1110, if a violation of K.S.A. 65-1120 is established.
13. Respondent has violated the Kansas Nurse Practice Act as follows:
 - a. Count 1: K.S.A. 65-1120(a)(1), to be guilty of fraud or deceit in practicing nursing.
 - b. Count 2: K.S.A. 65-1120(a)(6), to be guilty of unprofessional conduct by KAR 60-3-110(d), inaccurately recording, falsifying, or altering any record of a patient or agency or of the board;
 - c. Count 3: K.S.A. 65-1120(a)(6), to be guilty of unprofessional conduct by KAR 60-3-110(h), delegating any activity that requires the unique skill and substantial specialized knowledge derived from the biological, physical, or behavioral sciences and judgment of the nurse to an unlicensed individual in violation of the Kansas nurse practice act or to the detriment of patient safety.

POLICY STATEMENT

14. The role of the Kansas State Board of Nursing is to protect citizens of Kansas.

DISPOSITION

15. By entering into this Consent Agreement and consenting to the entry of the Final Order, both parties waive their right to full administrative proceedings pursuant to K.S.A. 65-1120 and K.S.A.77-501 *et seq.* and to judicial review.

16. Based upon this agreement, and pursuant to the disciplinary remedies available in K.S.A. 65-1120, the parties agree that the Respondent's license to practice nursing in Kansas is immediately suspended with a stay and is immediately limited.

17. The Kansas State Board of Nursing will not take additional disciplinary action against Respondent's nursing license for the violations stated above as long as Respondent completes each of the following conditions and requirements:

a. **Respondent's license is suspended with a stay. Respondent's license is limited.**

b. **Respondent shall not work as a director of nursing or in a charge or supervising position for a period of one year from the date of this Final Order and Consent Agreement.**

i. **After the prescribed period of limitation, Respondent must provide the Board with written verification from her employer indicating that during the period of limitation, Respondent did not work as a director of nursing or in a charge or supervising position for a period of one year.**

c. **Respondent shall complete a three to six (3-6) hour CNE on "Disciplinary Actions" and submit a certificate of completion within 90 days of the date of this Consent Agreement.**

- d. Respondent shall complete a three to six (3-6) hour CNE on “Delegation” and submit a certificate of completion within 90 days of the date of this Consent Agreement.
- e. Respondent shall complete a three to six (3-6) hour CNE on “Professional Accountability” and submit a certificate of completion within 90 days of the date of this Consent Agreement.
- f. Respondent shall not violate the Kansas Nurse Practice Act during the term of this agreement.
- g. Respondent shall not violate the laws of the United States, of any State, or of any political subdivision of any State during the term of this agreement. Traffic infractions shall not be considered violations of the law.
- h. Respondent shall send a money order for \$70 to the Board upon entering into this agreement to pay the cost of this action.
- i. Respondent shall notify the Legal Division of any changes in address and phone number as well as all employment terminations or employer changes or additions.
 - i. All such notifications shall be made in writing within fourteen (14) days of such a change.
- j. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that Respondent is responsible for the costs related to satisfying the conditions and requirements of this Final Order and Consent Agreement. Respondent further acknowledges and agrees that to provide the Board with false information regarding compliance with this Final Order and Consent Agreement is a violation of this Final Order and Consent Agreement.
- k. Respondent shall submit reports from the Respondent's employer to the attention of the Legal Division, Kansas State Board of Nursing, Landon

State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson, Suite 1051, Topeka, Kansas 66612-1230 on the following schedule:

- i. Prior to Respondent securing employment that utilizes his or her nursing license, Respondent is to mail to the Kansas State Board of Nursing a statement indicating that Respondent has not yet secured employment which utilizes Respondent's nursing license. This statement is due by the 10th day of each month beginning the next month after signing this Final Order and Consent Agreement.**
- ii. Once Respondent is employed in a position that utilizes his or her nursing license, or if Respondent is currently employed in a position that utilizes his or her nursing license, a nursing performance report is due by the 10th day of every third Month until Respondent has caused the submission of four (4) separate nursing performance reports.**
- iii. The report shall be prepared and signed by Respondent's immediate supervisor or by an R.N. who evaluates Respondent's performance on a regular basis and be based on the following guidelines:**
 - 1. Incorporation of information on facility letterhead stationary is required.**
 - 2. Letter format is acceptable, with the date of the report identified.**
 - 3. Evaluator's name, telephone number, address, license number and nursing credentials.**
 - 4. Respondent's name, address, telephone number, license number.**

5. **A statement by the evaluator that Responent is not employed as a director of nursing or in a charge or supervising position**
6. **A short explanation of the Respondent's work performance in the following areas:**
 - a. **Standards met regarding facility policies and procedures.**
 - b. **Compliance with the Kansas Nurse Practice Act.**
 - c. **Supervisor evaluations.**
 - d. **Overall appropriateness.**
 - e. **Interactions with patients.**
 - f. **Interactions with staff and administration.**

18. If Respondent does not meet these conditions and requirements, the Kansas State Board of Nursing may request additional sanctions against Respondent's license or application for a license. Respondent would be sent notice of such action and would be entitled to a hearing as to whether Respondent had complied with this Final Order and Consent Agreement, but Respondent could not contest the violations listed in this agreement.

19. All parties understand that if an action based on failure to meet the conditions and requirements of this Final Order and Consent Agreement is filed, K.S.A. 77-531 requires the Notice of Hearing to be served upon the Respondent and the Respondent's attorney of record, if any. All parties agree that only serving the Notice of Hearing upon the Respondent will be proper service and it is the Respondent's responsibility to contact his or her attorney, if any, in reference to the action.

20. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that if any action based on failure to meet the conditions and requirements of this Final Order and Consent Agreement is filed during the term of this Final Order and Consent Agreement, or within 30 days after the

expiration date, the conditions of this Final Order and Consent Agreement shall continue in effect until the Board or a hearing/presiding officer designated pursuant to K.S.A. 77-514 and K.S.A. 77-526, rules on the action.

21. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that upon a first finding of Respondent not complying with any of the conditions or requirements of this Final Order and Consent Agreement, the Stay of Suspension on Respondent's license to practice nursing in the State of Kansas shall be lifted for a period of six months from the date of said finding. If Respondent is currently suspended, her suspension shall be extended for an additional six months. Respondent will not be allowed to practice nursing in the state of Kansas during the period of suspension. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that all conditions and requirements of this Final Order and Consent Agreement remain in effect during the period of suspension.
22. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that upon a second or subsequent finding of Respondent not complying with any of the conditions or requirements of this Final Order and Consent Agreement the Stay of Suspension of Respondent's license to practice nursing in the State of Kansas shall be lifted for a period of one year from the date of said finding. If Respondent is currently suspended, her suspension shall be extended for an additional twelve months. Respondent will not be allowed to practice nursing in the state of Kansas during the period of suspension. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that all conditions and requirements of this Final Order and Consent Agreement remain in effect during the period of suspension.
23. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that upon the Stay of Suspension being lifted due to a finding of non-compliance with any of the conditions or requirements of this Final Order and Consent Agreement, the Suspension will not again be Stayed until the Respondent has, following the prescribed time period of suspension, provided written verification to the Board that Respondent is in compliance and has remained in

compliance during the period of suspension, with all conditions and requirements of this Final Order and Consent Agreement. Upon the Respondent providing said written verification, the suspension will again be stayed.

24. The Board will inactivate this case file once Respondent satisfies this agreement. This agreement does not prohibit the agency from taking disciplinary action against Respondent's license for any additional or cumulative violation of the Kansas Nurse Practice Act committed by the Respondent before or after this agreement is entered into.
25. This agreement is a discipline and must be reported on any future renewal or reinstatement applications. This agreement is a contract entered into by the parties to resolve an investigative case. The original of this agreement shall be placed in the Agency Record. This Agreement is a public record and will be reported to national disciplinary data banks.
26. After successful completion of all of the conditions and requirements of this Final Order and Consent Agreement by the respondent, the Final Order and Consent Agreement will be satisfied and the case will be inactivated.
27. By signing this Final Order and Consent Agreement, Respondent acknowledges that Respondent has read and understands the entire document, and agrees to be bound by its terms. This Final Order and Consent Agreement constitute the entire agreement of the parties and may not be modified except in writing and approved by all parties. The effective date of this Final Order and Consent Agreement is the date shown on the certificate of service.
28. The hearing/presiding officer whose signature appears below has been designated pursuant to K.S.A. 77-514 and K.S.A. 77-526 to act on behalf of the Board/agency head and to hear discipline cases on behalf of the Board/agency head and to render either initial orders or final orders, if by agreement of both parties, in those discipline cases.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto execute this FINAL ORDER AND CONSENT AGREEMENT.

IT IS SO ORDERED

[Redacted]

Bethen Armstrong
Respondent
110 N. Vine
Caney KS 67333-2425



Bethen Armstrong must sign before a Notary Public.

[Redacted]

Danielle R. Sanger, #24587
Assistant Attorney General
Kansas State Board of Nursing
Landon State Office Building
900 SW Jackson #1051
Topeka, KS 66612

[Redacted]

Sandra Sharon, Presiding Officer

Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-527, either party may request a review of this final order by filing a petition for reconsideration with the Kansas State Board of Nursing. A petition for reconsideration must be filed within 15 days from the date this final order was served. Failure to timely request a reconsideration by the Kansas State Board of Nursing may preclude further judicial review. The petition for reconsideration shall be mailed or personally delivered to: Mary Blubaugh, Executive Director, Board of Nursing, Landon State Office Building, Suite 1051, 900 SW Jackson, Topeka, KS 66612-1230.

Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-531, if the final order is served by mail, three days are added to the time limits set out above.

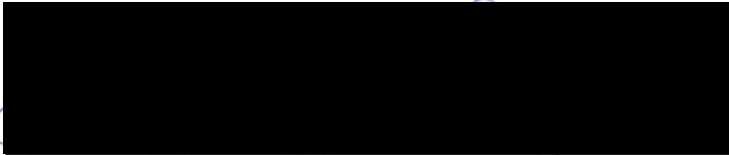
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on the 2nd day of May, 2011, the foregoing copy of the FINAL ORDER AND CONSENT AGREEMENT was depositing in the United States Mail, first-class postage prepaid, addressed to the following:

~~Bethen Armstrong
110 N. Vine
Caney KS 67333-2425~~

*No longer
address of records*

Bethen Armstrong
400 S. Hickory St.
Copan OK 74022


Danielle R. Sanger, #24587
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