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**BEFORE THE KANSAS STATE BOARD OF NURSING**  
Landon State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson #1051  
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1230

**FILED**  
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DEC 07 2012 *par*  
KSBN

**IN THE MATTER OF  
DEIRDRE LYNN AUSTIN  
License No. 13-93058-082**

**Case No: 05-816-0 and 11-933-0**

**FINAL ORDER AND CONSENT AGREEMENT**

NOW ON THIS 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2012, the Kansas State Board of Nursing, represented by Assistant Attorney General, Alma A. Heckler, and the Respondent, Deirdre Lynn Austin, represented by Megan Leah Lewis, Attorney at Law, hereby enter into this agreement and proffer evidence and the presiding 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 8/31/2014. 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 6730 N. Mercier Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64118.
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 notwithstanding any state or federal law otherwise restricting public access to, or dissemination of, any personal or health care information, or any information or records of substance abuse evaluation and/or treatment contained herein.
5. After an investigation, the Board's investigative committee found reasonable grounds to believe that the respondent violated the Kansas Nurse Practice Act, K.S.A. 65-1120, and referred this matter for further proceedings.

6. 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 applicants and may limit, deny, suspend or revoke 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.

7. A Summary Order to Revoke was filed on or about June 22, 2012. The Respondent timely appealed the summary order and a Petition was filed July 6, 2012 to take disciplinary action against the Respondent's nursing license. The Respondent admits the allegations as set out by the Board in the petition, but denies that she intentionally or willfully violated the Kansas Nurse Practice Act, and admits solely for the purpose of resolving this matter:

8. The facts below are common to all counts:

(a) Respondent in Case No. 05-816-0, tested positive for cocaine, oxazepam and methadone in a pre-employment urinary drug screen. The Board referred respondent to the Kansas Nurse Assistance Program (KNAP) on 12/13/2005. She refused to sign with KNAP and her license lapsed on 8/21/2006. Respondent filed for reinstatement in March of 2009 and the Board allowed her to enter KNAP and relicensed her when she demonstrated three months of compliance with KNAP.

(b) In Case No. 11-933-0, Respondent tested positive for methamphetamine on 6/22/2011 and failed to check in and submit to a urinary drug screens in August 2011. Respondent denied the use of methamphetamine and stated that she had been using a nasal spray but further testing indicated that she tested positive for street methamphetamine.

(c) Respondent's KNAP case was closed on or about 8/31/2011 by KNAP after her failure to submit to a urinary drug screen in August 2011.

9. The above incidents are violations of the nurse practice act. The Respondent agrees that the board is prepared to prove that respondent has violated:

Count 1: K.S.A. 65 1120(a)(4) to be unable to practice with skill and safety due to current abuse of drugs or alcohol;

Count 2: K.S.A. 65-1120(a)(6), unprofessional conduct, by failing to complete the requirements of the impaired provider program of the board; K.A.R. 30-3-110 (s).

10. 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**

11. 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 applicants and may limit, deny, suspend or revoke 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.

12. Respondent has violated the Kansas Nurse Practice Act as follows:

Count 1: K.S.A. 65 1120(a)(4) to be unable to practice with skill and safety due to current abuse of drugs or alcohol;

Count 2: K.S.A. 65-1120(a)(6), unprofessional conduct, by failing to complete the requirements of the impaired provider program of the board; K.A.R. 30-3-110 (s).

#### **POLICY STATEMENT**

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

#### **DISPOSITION**

14. 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.

15. Based upon this agreement, and pursuant to the disciplinary remedies available in K.S.A. 65-1120, the parties agree that this Final Order and Consent Agreement will continue through any renewal periods of respondent's nursing license until respondent completes each of the conditions and requirements of this agreement. Further, the parties agree that in the event of a lapse of Respondent's nursing license, reinstatement of Respondent's nursing license shall be contingent upon this Final Order and Consent Agreement remaining in effect until Respondent completes each of the conditions and requirements of this agreement.

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. The suspension will be stayed as long as the requirements and conditions of this agreement are met.

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 shall receive a license, which, when verified by the public, will show an "S" to indicate that the license is suspended with a Stay.

(b) Respondent will participate in and complete the reasonable recommendations and requirements of the Kansas Nurses Assistance Program (KNAP); sign releases of information necessary for KNAP to evaluate and monitor respondent and for KNAP to report information to the board.

Respondent will be deemed to have completed the KNAP program when KNAP issues written notification that respondent has completed the program. If

**Respondent is not already enrolled, Respondent must enroll in the KNAP program within thirty (30) days of entering this agreement. Noncompliance with KNAP is a violation of this agreement.**

(c) Respondent must submit to random drug screens as determined or selected by the Board or by KNAP. The costs of the drug screens will be paid by the respondent. Respondent agrees that a Positive Drug Screen is a violation of this agreement.

d) Respondent shall have a narcotic key restriction on respondent's license imposed, consistent with her contract with KNAP.

(e) Respondent shall immediately notify the Legal Division of any use of alcohol, if prohibited by KNAP, or controlled substances, or any violation of this Final Order and Consent Agreement.

(f) The respondent shall immediately inform all employers and prospective employers of this Final Order and Consent Agreement.

(g) Respondent will 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:

If the Respondent is unemployed after signing the agreement and subject to the terms of the Final Order and Consent Agreement, 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.

Once respondent is employed in a position that *utilizes her nursing license*, or if respondent is *currently employed in a position that utilizes her nursing license*, a nursing performance report is due by the 10th day of January, April, July and October of 2013. Respondent is responsible for ensuring that employers submit four (4) separate nursing performance reports.

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 preferred.
- (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 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.

**Respondent will cause the Reports to be sent 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. These reports are in addition to the reports sent to KNAP.**

- (g) Respondent shall send a money order for \$70 to the Board upon entering into this agreement to pay the cost of this action.
- (h) Respondent shall not violate the Kansas Nurse Practice Act during the duration of this agreement.

(i) Respondent shall not violate the laws of the United States, of 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.

(j) The Respondent will complete two (2) hours of Continuing Nurses Education (CNE) on the topic of "Kansas Nurse Practice Act." Respondent is to submit the original certificates for proof of the completion of the hours within 30 days of this agreement. Respondent may not use these hours to meet the CNE requirements of any renewal period.

(k) Respondent agrees to notify the Legal Division of any changes in address and phone number as well as all employment terminations or employer changes or additions. All such notifications shall be made in writing within fourteen (14) days of such a change.

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. 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.

21. 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.

22. 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 of 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. 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 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. 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.

24. 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.

25. 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.

26. 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.

27. 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.

28. 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 constitutes 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.

29. 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.

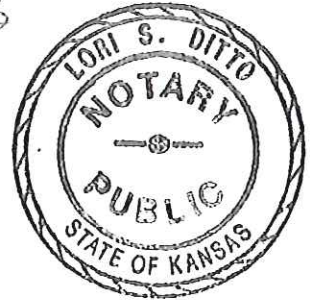
*My appointment Expires: August 4, 2015*

IT IS SO ORDERED.

[Redacted]  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deirdre Lynn Austin  
6730 N. Mercier Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64118  
Respondent

Deirdere Lynn Austin must sign before a Notary Public.

[Redacted]



[Redacted]  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Megan Leah Lewis, #23719  
Holbrook & Osborn, P.A.  
107 SE 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 210  
Topeka, Kansas 66603  
785-232-6200  
Attorneys for Respondent

[Redacted]  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Alma A. Heckler*  
Alma A. Heckler, #11555  
Assistant Attorney General/Disciplinary Counsel  
Kansas State Board of Nursing  
Landon State Office Building  
900 SW Jackson #1051  
Topeka, KS 66612

[Redacted]  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sandra Sharon, Presiding Officer

Notice of Right to Appeal

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 with 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.

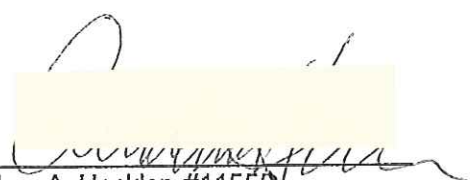
Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-530, if a request for reconsideration is not requested in the time and manner stated above, this initial order shall become effective as a final order 30 days after service.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

On the 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2012, I mailed a copy of this FINAL ORDER AND CONSENT AGREEMENT to:

Deirdre Lynn Austin  
6730 N. Mercier Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64118

Megan Leah Lewis  
Holbrook & Osborn, P.A.  
107 SE 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 210  
Topeka, Kansas 66603

  
Alma A. Heckler, #11555  
Assistant Attorney General  
Kansas State Board of Nursing  
Landon State Office Building  
900 SW Jackson #1051  
Topeka, KS 66612