

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

ANGUS S. KING, JR.

MYRA A. BROADWAY, J.D., M.S., R.N. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IN RE:	CATHERINE C. SMITH, R.N.)	CONSENT AGREEMENT
	of Bangor, Maine)	FOR PROBATION WITH
	License #R015298)	CONDITIONS

INTRODUCTION

This document is a Consent Agreement regarding Catherine C. Smith's license to practice registered 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 Catherine C. Smith, 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 August 25, 1999 regarding information submitted by Eastern Maine Medical Center by letter dated July 27, 1998.

FACTS

- 1. Catherine C. Smith has been a registered professional nurse for 30 years and licensed by the Board to practice in Maine since April 1, 1970. She was found to have a good work history.
- 2. Catherine C. Smith is currently employed by Eastern Maine Medical Center in a non-nursing position as a "nurse call operator" and has held this position since October 1998; however, she is eligible for re-employment to resume her nursing practice at Eastern Maine Medical Center should she choose to reapply.
- 3. Catherine C. Smith admits to a long-term addiction to prescribed medication.
- 4. Catherine C. Smith admits that she diverted narcotics for her own use and, she states that this was a one-time diversion.
- 5. The Board finds that no patient harm occurred with respect to this one-time diversion.
- 6. Catherine C. Smith has completed a recognized detox program. She continues in an aftercare treatment program, and has been substance free for 14 months.



AGREEMENT

- 7. Catherine C. Smith agrees and understands that her conduct constitutes grounds for discipline under 32 M.R.S.A. § 2105-A(2)(B), (2)(E), (2)(F) and (2)(H).
- 8. Catherine C. Smith's license to practice registered professional nursing is placed on a probationary status, with conditions, for a period of 3 years. The conditions are as follows:
 - A. Catherine C. Smith will remain substance free, with the exception of substances used in accordance with a valid prescription from a physician who is aware of Ms. Smith's substance abuse history.
 - B. Catherine C. Smith will continue in counseling to address her long-term substance abuse problem and will continue in her self-help recovery process by attending NA or AA on a weekly basis.
 - C. Catherine C. Smith will arrange for and ensure that quarterly reports are submitted to the Board from her employer when she resumes the practice of nursing and, when she is involved in direct patient care. Ms. Smith is to inform any employer, where she will be involved in the practice of nursing, of the conditions of her license and to further notify the Board on any change of employment.
 - D. After three years from the effective date of this Agreement, Ms. Smith may petition the Board to terminate the probationary status of her license. Ms. Smith agrees and understands that her license will not be removed from probationary status until and unless the Board, upon Ms. Smith's written request, votes to terminate the probationary status of Ms. Smith's license. When considering whether to terminate Ms. Smith's license from probationary status, the Board will consider the extent to which Ms. Smith has complied with these conditions.
- 9. The Board agrees to take no further disciplinary action upon these facts so long as Ms. Smith fully complies with these conditions.
- 10. Catherine C. Smith understands that this document imposes discipline regarding her license to practice registered professional nursing in the State of Maine. Ms. Smith 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.
- 11. Modification of this Consent Agreement must be in writing and signed by all parties.
- 12. Catherine C. Smith affirms that she executes this Consent Agreement of her own free will.
- 13. This Consent Agreement is not subject to review or appeal by the Licensee but may be enforced by an action in the Superior Court.

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

14.

below.	
DATED: <u>9/17/99</u>	CATHERINE C. SMITH, R.N.
DATED: <u>9/21/99</u>	FOR THE MAINE STATE BOARD OF NURSING: Lugma E. dedame VIRGINIA E. deLORIMIER, M.S.N., R.N. Executive Director
DATED: <u>9/22/99</u>	JOHN H. RICHARDS Assistant Attorney General