

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
HEALTH SERVICES REGULATION
BOARD OF NURSE REGISTRATION
AND NURSING EDUCATION**

CASE NO. C11-112

vs.

LINDA ARRUDA RN28996

CONSENT ORDER

Pursuant to Section 5-34-24 the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, 2004 Reenactment, a complaint was filed with the Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education (hereinafter referred to as "Board") charging Linda Arruda, RN, Respondent with a violation of Chapter 5-34 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, 2008 Reenactment.

After consideration by the Committee of the Board, the following constitutes the Findings of Fact with respect to the professional performance of the Respondent:


1. Respondent is a Registered Nurse licensed to practice nursing in the State of Rhode Island.
2. That at all pertinent times Respondent was employed at Westerly Hospital, Westerly, Rhode Island.
3. It is alleged that Respondent failed to maintain the standards of nursing practice by administering a medication in excess of the order, and prior to the time the medication (Morphine Sulfate) was due for a patient. In addition, she failed to assess the patient and/or notify the physician in charge of the patient's status.
4. That the conduct described in paragraph three (3) herein constitutes unprofessional conduct as defined in Section 5-34-24 (6) and the Rules and Regulations promulgated there under.

The parties agree as follows:

1. Respondent is a registered nurse and able to conduct business under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Rhode Island, license number RN41332.
2. Respondent admits to the jurisdiction of the Board and hereby agrees to remain under the jurisdiction of the Board.
3. Respondent has read this Consent Order and understands that it is a proposal of the Board and is subject to the final ratification by the Board. This Consent Order and the contents thereof are not binding on Respondent until final ratification by the Board.
4. Respondent hereby acknowledges and waives:
 - a) The right to appear personally or by counsel or both before the Board;
 - b) The right to produce witnesses and evidence in her behalf at a hearing;
 - c) The right to cross-examine witnesses;
 - d) The right to have subpoenas issued by the Board;
 - e) The right to further procedural steps except for those specifically contained herein;
 - f) Any and all rights of appeal of this Consent Order;
 - g) Any objection to the fact that this Consent Order will be presented to the Board for consideration and review;
 - h) Any objection to the fact that it will be necessary for the board to become acquainted with all evidence pertaining to this matter in order to adequately review this Consent Order;

- i) Any objection to the fact that the Board reviewing this Consent Order may be the same as the hearing committee presiding over this matter should it later be brought to an administrative hearing.
 - j) Any objection to the fact that potential bias against the Respondent may occur as a result of the presentation of this Consent Order to the Board.
5. This Consent Order shall become part of the public record of this proceeding once it is accepted by all parties and accepted by the Board.
 6. Respondent agrees to a Reprimand of her registered nurse license.
 7. That Respondent shall, prior to ratification of this Order, present evidence of satisfactory completion of continuing education courses in "*Medication Errors: Detection and Prevention, Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills, Documentation: A Critical Aspect of Client Care and Professional Accountability & Legal Liability for Nurses.*"
 8. That should Respondent fail to comply with the laws and regulations governing the practice of nursing and/or fail to comply with the terms of the Consent Order, her license as a registered nurse may be subject to suspension or other appropriate disciplinary action.


Linda Arruda, RN


President, Board of Nurse Registration
and Nursing Education

Ratified as an order of the Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education at a meeting held on this 11 day of March 2013.