

SEP 8 1989

MAIME STATE
BOARD OF NURSING

## Maine State Vourd of Nursing

295 WATER STREET AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330

In re:	)	CONSENT A	GREEMENT
Karen L. Ringer, R.N.	)	REGARDING	VOLUNTARY
of Gardiner, Maine	)	SURRENDER	OF LICENSE

## INTRODUCTION

This document is a Consent Agreement regarding Karen L. Ringer's license to practice professional nursing in the State of Maine, entered into pursuant to 32 M.R.S.A. sub-section 2105-A(1-A)(C) (1988). The parties to this Consent Agreement are: Karen L. Ringer, R.N., the Maine State Board of Nursing ("Board") and the Department of the Attorney General, State of Maine.

On December 8, 1988, William Cullen, Administrator of Merrill Memorial Manor in Gardiner, Maine, notified the Board that Karen L. Ringer had been arrested and charged with theft of scheduled drugs from the nursing home where she was employed at the time. Ms. Ringer responded to the Board's notice of this complaint through her attorney, Walter T. Ollen, Jr.

By letter dated March 13, 1989, the Board requested that Ms. Ringer attend an informal conference pursuant to 32 M.R.S.A. sub-section 2105-A(1-A). The informal conference was held on March 23, 1989 at the office of the State Board of Nursing in Augusta, Maine. Ms. Ringer was present and was represented by her attorney.

## FINDINGS OF FACT

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

- 1. Ms. Ringer admits to a long history of chemical dependency.
- 2. Ms. Ringer diverted drugs from Merrill Memorial Manor approximately 1/2 hour before leaving work on December 8, 1988. She consumed some of the drugs prior to leaving work.
- 3. There is no documented evidence of harm to patients as the result of Ms. Ringer's conduct.

- 4. On or about January 13, 1989, Ms. Ringer surrendered her license to her attorney.
- 5. Ms. Ringer has maintained sobriety since December 8, 1988 and is currently in aftercare treatment.
- 6. Ms. Ringer has established a good support system.
- 7. Ms. Ringer is not currently employed as a nurse.
- 8. Ms. Ringer is attending classes at the University of Maine in Augusta and is working 6 hours a week as a personal care attendant for one client.

## COVENANTS

Based on the above Findings of Fact, the Board voted to accept Ms. Ringer's voluntary surrender of her license for 18 months beginning on March 23, 1989, and agreed to the following terms and conditions for reinstatement:

- 1. Ms. Ringer shall maintain sobriety at all times.
- Ms. Ringer shall not be employed in any capacity in the health care field, including employment as a personal care attendant. Ms. Ringer shall terminate her present employment as a personal care attendant by April 23, 1989.
- 3. Ms. Ringer shall continue with aftercare treatment, including attendance at Narcotics Anonymous, until released by a registered or licensed substance abuse counselor.
- 4. Ms. Ringer shall arrange for quarterly reports to be submitted to the Board by the registered or licensed substance abuse counselor responsible for her aftercare treatment.
- 5. Ms. Ringer hereby waives all claims of confidentiality and privilege she may have regarding reports to be submitted to the Board in accordance with this Consent Agreement.
- 6. Ms. Ringer shall maintain a strong support system.
- 7. Ms. Ringer may apply for reinstatement of her license after October 23, 1990. Ms. Ringer understands and accepts that she must demonstrate compliance with the terms of this Consent Agreement and that the Board may impose appropriate conditions on her license upon reinstatement.

DATED: 0//89	BY: Karen L. RINGER
DATED: 9/(/8-C)	BY: MINTERS
	WALTER T. OLLEN, JR. Counsel for Karen Ringer
DATED: 9/5/89	FOR THE MAINE STATE BOARD OF NURSING:  BY: each Caron, R.N. Executive Director
· · · · · · · ·	FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:
DATED: 9/7/89	BY M M CLIFFORD Assistant Attorney General Counsel to the Board