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

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

IN RE:	JENNIFER I. SEEKINGS, R.N.)	CONSENT AGREEMENT
	of Hermon, Maine)	FOR VOLUNTARY
	License # R049988)	SURRENDER OF LICENSE

INTRODUCTION

This document is a Consent Agreement ("Agreement") regarding Jennifer I. Seekings's license to practice registered professional nursing in the State of Maine. The parties enter into this Agreement pursuant to 32 M.R.S.A. § 2105-A (1-A) (C), 10 M.R.S.A. § 8003 (5) (B) and 10 M.R.S.A. § 8003 (5) (D). The parties to this Agreement are Jennifer I. Seekings ("Ms. Seekings" or "Licensee"), Maine State Board of Nursing ("Board") and the Office of the Attorney General, State of Maine. The Board met with Ms. Seekings in an Informal Conference on February 26, 2009. The parties reached this Agreement on the basis of a Notice of Complaint/Provider Report from the Board dated October 17, 2008, which includes information from Acadia OB/GYN Associates, P.A. ("Acadia OB/GYN") dated October 6, 2008, with attachments dated October 3 and October 6, 2008 and a copy of a prescription image dated September 29, 2008, all of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A. This Agreement is also based on an interview with Ms. Seekings conducted by Detective Jeffrey J. Wrigley on January 20, 2009, which is transcribed in an eight-page Summary of Interview, Case Number 2009-003-60A [Exhibit B].

FACTS

- 1. Jennifer I. Seekings has been licensed as a registered professional nurse to practice in Maine since June 2004.
- 2. Jennifer I. Seekings was hired part-time by Acadia OB/GYN on September 3, 2008. Her employment was terminated on October 6, 2008 for forging blank prescription sheets that she obtained from Acadia OB/GYN to obtain Ritalin and Soma 350mg.
- 3. Jennifer I. Seekings admitted that she is currently receiving methadone daily for an opioid addiction (Oxycontin) and that she has had a number of relapses, most recently in early January when she purchased an "Oxy" and administered it to herself by injection. She also admitted that she has a history of misusing pain medications such as Oxycontin, Ritalin, Valium and Morphine.
- 4. Jennifer I. Seekings stated that she is currently seeing a counselor every other week and attends Narcotics Anonymous three times a week.
- 5. Jennifer I. Seekings has agreed to immediately surrender her registered professional nurse license, effective February 26, 2009.



AGREEMENT

- 6. The Board voted to accept the surrender of Jennifer I. Seekings's registered professional nurse license.
- 7. Jennifer I. Seekings understands and agrees that her license will remain surrendered until it is reinstated by the Board. Ms. Seekings also agrees to waive a hearing before the Board regarding the surrender of her registered professional nurse license.
- 8. Jennifer I. Seekings understands that based upon the above-stated facts, this document imposes discipline regarding her license to practice professional nursing in the State of Maine. The grounds for discipline for violations are under 32 M.R.S.A.§ 2105-A(2)(A), (2)(B), (2)(F), (2)(H) and Chapter 4, sections 1(A)(1), 1(A)(2), 1(A)(6), 1(A)(8) and Chapter 4, sections 3(K), 3(P) and 3(Q) of the Rules and Regulations of the Maine State Board of Nursing. Specifically, the violations are:
 - a. M.R.S.A. § 2105-A (2) (A). The practice of fraud and deceit in connection with service rendered within the scope of the license issued by forging prescriptions to obtain Ritalin and Soma for her own personal use. (See also Rule Chapter 4. Section 1.A.1.)
 - b. M.R.S.A. § 2105-A (2) (B). Habitual substance abuse that has resulted or is foreseeably likely to result in the licensee performing services in a manner that endangers the health or safety of patients. (See also Rule Chapter 4. Section 1.A.2.)
 - c. M.R.S.A. § 2105-A (2) (F). Unprofessional Conduct. Ms. Seekings engaged in unprofessional conduct because she violated a standard of professional behavior that has been established in the practice for which she is licensed. (See also Rule Chapter 4, Section 1.A.6.)
 - d. M.R.S.A. § 2105-A (2) (H). A violation of this chapter or a rule adopted by the Board. (See also Rule Chapter 4, Section 1.A.6.)
 - e. Rule Chapter 4, Section 3. *Unprofessional conduct* is defined as: *Nursing behavior which fails to conform to legal standards of the nursing profession, and which could reflect adversely on the health and welfare of the public shall constitute unprofessional conduct and shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:*
 - 1) Chapter 4, Section 3(K). Ms. Seekings inaccurately recorded, falsified or altered a health care provider record.
 - 2) Chapter 4, Section 3(P). Ms. Seekings diverted drugs from patients and a health care provider.

- Chapter 4, Section Q. Ms. Seekings possessed, obtained and administered prescription drugs to herself, except as directed by a person authorized by law to prescribe drugs.
- 9. Jennifer I. Seekings understands and agrees that her license will remain on surrender status and subject to the terms of this Consent Agreement indefinitely until and unless the Board, at Ms. Seekings's written request, votes to reinstate her license. Ms. Seekings understands and agrees that if the Board reinstatements her license, it will be for a probationary period.
- 10. The State of Maine is a "party state" that has adopted the Nurse Licensure Compact ("Compact"), which is set out in Chapter 11 of the Rules and Regulations of the Maine State Board of Nursing. The State of Maine is Ms. Seekings's "home state" of licensure and primary state of residence, which means that she has declared the State of Maine as her fixed permanent and principle home for legal purposes; her domicile. Other party states that are in the Compact are referred to as "remote states," which means party states other than the home state that have adopted the Compact. Ms. Seekings understands that this document is an Agreement that affects her rights to practice nursing in the State of Maine and any remote party state in the Nurse Licensure Compact. She understands that she does not have to execute this Agreement and has the right to consult with an attorney before entering into the Agreement.
- 11. This Agreement is a public record within the meaning of 1 M.R.S.A. § 402 and will be available for inspection and copying by the public pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 408.
- 12. Jennifer I. Seekings shall not work or volunteer in any capacity for a health care provider as defined by Title 24 M.R.S.A. § 2502 (2) or in any position holding herself out as a registered professional nurse or with the designation "RN," including in a veterinarian's office, while her nursing license is surrendered. In addition, Ms. Seekings is not to seek employment where the handling or dispensing of drugs is part of the job responsibility.
- 13. Modification of this Agreement must be in writing and signed by all parties.
- 14. This Agreement is not subject to review or appeal by Ms. Seekings, but may be enforced by an action in the Superior Court.
- 15. Jennifer I. Seekings affirms that she executes this Agreement of her own free will.
- 16. This Agreement becomes effective upon the date of the last necessary signature below, but will be retroactive to February 26, 2009.

I, JENNIFER I. SEEKINGS, R.N., HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE FORE-GOING CONSENT AGREEMENT. I UNDERSTAND THAT BY SIGNING IT, I WAIVE CERTAIN RIGHTS. I SIGN IT VOLUNTARILY, KNOWINGLY, AND INTELLIGENTLY AND AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THIS AGREEMENT. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT CONTAINS THE ENTIRE AGREEMENT AND THERE IS NO OTHER AGREEMENT OF ANY KIND.

DATED: <u>2/26/0</u>9

JENNIFERA. SEEKINGS, R.N.

FOR THE MAINE STATE BOARD OF NURSING

DATED: 4/9/09

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

Executive Director

FOR THE OFFICE

OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DATED: '

JOHN'H. RICHARDS

Assistant Attorney General