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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

N RE: LAUREN M. SIMMONS, R.N.	)	CONSENT AGREEMENT
of Cape Elizabeth, Maine	)	FOR LICENSE PROBATION
License No. R030193	)	WITH CONDITIONS

### INTRODUCTION

This document is a Consent Agreement regarding Lauren M. Simmons' 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)(A-1)(4), 10 M.R.S.A. § 8003(5)(B), and 32 M.R.S.A. § 2105-A(1-A)(B). The parties to this Consent Agreement are Lauren M. Simmons ("Licensee"), Maine State Board of Nursing ("Board") and the Office of the Attorney General, State of Maine. An informal conference was held on December 13, 2006. The parties reached this Consent Agreement based on information submitted by Cedars Rehabilitation and Nursing Care ("Cedars") by letter dated June 24, 2005.

## **FACTS**

- 1. Lauren M. Simmons has been a registered professional nurse licensed to practice in Maine since 1986.
- 2. Lauren M. Simmons stated that she admits and accepts that she is an alcoholic. She also recognizes that her untreated alcoholism interfered with her nursing practice while she was employed at Cedars.
- 3. Lauren M. Simmons has not worked as a nurse since resigning from Cedars on June 24, 2005. Ms. Simmons has been sober since March 19, 2006. Ms. Simmons attended the residential alcohol treatment program at the Plymouth House in New Hampshire. Her current treatment consists of being active as a sponsor at AA and attending AA three to four times a week. She lives at Oxford House, which is part of a nation-wide program that provides a "sober home" for people with substance abuse problem. She is the president of Oxford House where she resides with eight other women and is also president of the state chapter of Oxford House national organization.

### AGREEMENT WITH CONDITIONS OF PROBATION

4. Lauren M. Simmons agrees and understands that this document imposes discipline regarding her license to practice registered professional nursing and her conduct constitutes grounds for discipline under 32 M.R.S.A. § 2105-A(2)(B), (2)(F) and (2)(H) and Chapter, 4(1)(A)(2) and 4(1)(A)(6) of the Rules and Regulations of the Maine State Board of Nursing.



- 5. Lauren M. Simmons' license as a registered professional nursing in the State of Maine is placed on a probationary status with conditions. The period of probation will commence on Ms. Simmons' return to nursing practice, either through employment and/or pursuant to an educational program. The period of probation will be for a period of five years, to be effective only while she is employed in nursing practice and/or enrolled in a nursing education program. For purposes of this Agreement, nursing employment is any employment during which Ms. Simmons performs nursing services. Ms. Simmons' probationary license will be subject to the following conditions:
  - a. Lauren M. Simmons will abstain completely from the use of alcohol or drugs, with the exception of substances used in accordance with a valid prescription from a treatment provider who is aware of Ms. Simmons' substance abuse history.
  - b. Lauren M. Simmons will continue in her aftercare treatment program to such an extent and for as long as her treatment providers recommend.
  - c. Lauren M. Simmons will arrange for and ensure the submission of quarterly reports to the Board by her treatment providers, and such report shall continue until her probation is terminated. If Ms. Simmons' treatment is terminated she shall notify the Board.
  - d. Lauren M. Simmons will immediately notify the Board in writing should she return to employment and/or an educational program in the field of nursing. Notice under this section shall include the place and position of employment or the educational program and any subsequent change in employment or educational programs.
  - e. Lauren M. Simmons will notify any and all of her nursing employers and notify faculty involved in any clinical studies of the terms of this Consent Agreement and shall provide them with a copy of it.
  - f. Lauren M. Simmons' employment is restricted during the period of probation to structured settings with on-site supervision by another registered professional nurse. Structured settings shall not include assignments from temporary employment agencies, school nursing, working as a traveling nurse or working within the correctional system.
  - g. Lauren M. Simmons will arrange for and ensure the submission to the Board of quarterly reports from her nursing employer(s) and/or clinical faculty regarding her general nursing practice. If during the period of probation, Ms. Simmons' employment as a nurse terminates or should her educational program in the field

of nursing terminate, she shall notify the Board of this change to ensure that she remains in compliance with her employment and/or educational quarterly reports.

h. Lauren M. Simmons agrees and understands that the Board and the Department of Attorney General shall have access to any and all medical records and all otherwise confidential or medically privileged information pertaining to her treatment for substance abuse which the Board deems necessary to evaluate Ms. Simmons' compliance with the Consent Agreement and her continued recovery. Ms. Simmons shall provide such information, shall authorize the release of such records and information, and shall authorize any such discussions and communications with any and all persons involved in her care, counseling and employment as may be requested by the Board for the purpose of evaluating Ms. Simmons' compliance with the Consent Agreement and her continued recovery.

- 6. The State of Maine is Lauren M. Simmons' home state of licensure for purposes of the Nurse Licensure Compact (Compact). Ms. Simmons agrees that during the pendency of this Consent Agreement her nursing practice is limited to the State of Maine. If Ms. Simmons wishes to practice in any other party state within the Compact she shall petition the Board for written authorization. In addition, Ms. Simmons will arrange to have the party state in which she intends to practice provide the Board with written authorization that she has been approved to practice in that state.
- 7. Lauren M. Simmons agrees and understands that her license will remain on probationary status and subject to the terms of this Agreement indefinitely beyond the five year probationary period, until and unless the Board, at Ms. Simmons' written request, votes to terminate Ms. Simmons's probation. When considering whether to terminate the probation, the Board will consider the extent to which Ms. Simmons has complied with the provisions of this Agreement.
- 8. Ms. Simmons understands that this document is a Consent Agreement that affects her rights to practice nursing in Maine. Ms. Simmons understands that she does not have to execute this Consent Agreement and that she has the right to consult with an attorney before entering into the Consent Agreement.
- 9. If Ms. Simmons fails to meet any of the obligations of this Consent Agreement, the Board may take any disciplinary action, which it deems appropriate and impose any of the sanctions, including but not limited to that found in Title 10 M.R.S.A. § 8003 and Title 32 M.R.S.A. § 2105-A.
- 10. Lauren M. Simmons affirms that she executes this Consent Agreement of her own free will.

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- 11. Modification of this Consent Agreement must in writing and signed by all the parties.
- 12. This Consent Agreement is not subject to review or appeal by the Licensee, but may be enforced by an action in the Superior Court.
- 13. This Consent Agreement becomes effective upon the date of the last necessary signature below.

I, LAUREN M. SIMMONS, R.N., HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE FOREGOING CONSENT AGREEMENT. I UNDERSTAND THAT BY SIGNING IT, I WAIVE CERTAIN RIGHTS. I SIGN IT VOLUNTARILY, WITHOUT ANY THREAT OR PROMISE. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT CONTAINS THE ENTIRE AGREEMENT AND THERE IS NO OTHER AGREEMENT OF ANY KIND.

Jalina ///.Ximmin DA LAUREN M. SIMMONS, R.N.

FOR THE MAINE STATE BOARD OF NURSING

DATED: Jeb 12, 2007

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

**Executive Director** 

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF

ATTORNEY GENERAL

DATED: 14, 2007

JOHNH. RICHARDS Assistant Attorney General