



Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

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: STEPHANIE WALKER
of Bath, ME
License No. RN56506

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CONSENT AGREEMENT
FOR
PROBATION

Complaint 2012-201

INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Title 32, Chapter 31, the Maine State Legislature endowed the Board with the power and duty to regulate the practice of nurses licensed by the Board, including issuing licenses and investigating complaints. Pursuant to 10 M.R.S. §8008, the Legislature provided that the sole purpose of the Board is to "protect the public health and welfare" and that "other goals or objectives may not supersede this purpose."

This document is a Consent Agreement ("Agreement") regarding Stephanie Walker's license as a registered professional nurse ("RN") in the State of Maine. The parties to this Agreement are Stephanie Walker ("Licensee" or "Ms. Walker"), the Maine State Board of Nursing ("the Board"), and the Office of the Attorney General, State of Maine. The Board met with the Licensee in an informal conference on December 4, 2013. The parties enter into this Agreement pursuant to 32 M.R.S. §2105-A (1-A)(B), 10 M.R.S. §§8003 (5)(A-1)(4) and 8003 (5)(B) in order to resolve Complaint 2012-201.

FACTS

1. Licensee has been licensed to practice as an RN in Maine since June 15, 2009.
2. On September 27, 2012, the Board received notification from Home, Hope, and Healing ("Home") that the Licensee had been suspended based on her arrest by Bath Police for an allegation of Licensee stealing jewelry from her patient's wife. Board staff docketed the Complaint as 2012-201.
3. On October 2, 2012, the Board issued a Notice of Complaint to Licensee relating to Complaint 2012-201.
4. On October 30, 2012, the Board received the Licensee's written request to extend the time to respond to the Notice of Complaint and an entry of appearance of her attorney. The Board granted the extension of time.
5. On December 7, 2012, the Board received the Licensee's written response to the Notice of Complaint.
6. On March 7, 2013, the Board, at its regularly scheduled quarterly meeting, reviewed the materials submitted by the provider and the Licensee and voted to hold an informal conference with the Licensee.
7. On March 14, 2013, the Board was informed by the Licensee that she had been indicted on February 14, 2013 for the charge of Theft by Unauthorized Taking or Transfer and Theft by Receiving Stolen Property and was scheduled for trial on April 24, 2013.
8. On July 29, 2013, the Board was informed by the Licensee that she had pled guilty to the crime of Theft (a Class C offense) and would be sentenced on August 27, 2013.



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OFFICES LOCATED AT: 161 CAPITOL ST., AUGUSTA, ME
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9. On August 27, 2013, Ms. Walker received a sentence of three years to the Department of Corrections, all but 90 days suspended, and two years of court probation with special conditions that did not include any limitation on her ability to work as a nurse. Her jail sentence commenced on September 8, 2013.
10. On October 4, 2013, the Licensee and the Board entered into a voluntary Consent Agreement for an Interim License Suspension pending final disposition of the complaint.
11. On December 4, 2013, the Board held an informal conference with the Licensee regarding Complaint 2012-201 to review whether she had violated the following statutes:
 - 32 M.R.S. §2105-A (2)(A). The practice of fraud or deceit in obtaining a license under this chapter or in connection with service rendered within the scope of the license issued.
 - 32 M.R.S. §2105-A (2)(G). Subject to the limitations of Title 5, Chapter 341, conviction of a crime that involves dishonesty or false statement or that relates directly to the practice for which the licensee is licensed or conviction of a crime for which incarceration for one year or more may be imposed
 - 32 M.R.S. §2105-A (2)(F). Unprofessional conduct which violates a standard of professional behavior that has been established in the practice for which the Licensee is licensed.
 - 32 M.R.S. §2105-A (2)(H). A violation of a Maine Revised Statute, Title 32, Chapter 31 and rules adopted by the Board.
12. In addition to the cited sections in paragraph 11, the Notice of Informal Conference cited incompetence as additional possible grounds for violation. The conduct discussed at the informal conference did not provide sufficient basis for such a finding.
13. During the informal conference, the Board evaluated the circumstances around the conviction, as well as the Licensee's rehabilitation, including her current judgment around professional boundaries.
14. Evidence of disciplinary conduct before the Board included:
 - a) Licensee admits to taking jewelry from her patient's wife.
 - b) Licensee admits to this conduct being a serious violation of the public trust.
 - c) Licensee admits to deceit in her early responses to the Board.
 - d) Licensee was convicted of a crime that could provide the basis for license revocation.
 - e) Licensee presents sufficient evidence of rehabilitation, including recognition of her wrongdoing and her violation of the public trust, and exhibits genuine remorse.
 - f) Licensee provides further evidence of rehabilitation in the arrangement of an employment opportunity that includes a full disclosure of her crime and the employer's willingness to employ her upon its review of her current character.
15. Following the informal conference, the Board voted to offer the Licensee a Consent Agreement which would allow her to continue her practice of nursing while addressing the concerns of potential recidivism.
16. Absent Licensee's acceptance of this Agreement by signing and returning it to the Maine State Board of Nursing, 158 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0158 **on or before March 13, 2014**, the Board will take further action. In the absence of an agreement, the Board could impose, subsequent to adjudicatory proceedings, findings beyond those contained above and also impose greater adverse action including fines, costs of the hearing, suspension or revocation of Licensee's license.

AGREEMENT

17. Licensee admits to the Facts as stated above and admits that such conduct constitutes grounds for the Board to impose discipline against her Maine nursing license under the laws and regulations cited in paragraph 11 of this Agreement.
18. As discipline for the violations admitted to in paragraph 17 above, Licensee agrees that unless this Agreement is modified in writing by all of the parties hereto, her license to practice as a registered professional nurse shall be probationary for the next five (5) years following the execution of this Agreement and her license will be subject to the following conditions:

- a) Nurse Supervisor. Licensee's nursing 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, home health care, school nursing, work as a travel nurse, or within the correctional system.

The nurse supervisor must be in direct contact with the Licensee (i.e., physically on site) and be able to, at all times, observe her nursing performance. The nurse supervisor shall inform the Board if the Licensee demonstrates any issues with regard to inappropriate nursing judgment or any other concerns. The supervising nurse shall report such information to the Board within 24 hours or as soon thereafter as possible. In addition, the nurse supervisor shall provide the Board with a written report regarding Licensee's nursing performance every three (3) months following the execution of this Agreement. It is Licensee's responsibility to ensure that these reports are provided to the Board in a timely manner.

- b) Notification to Nursing Employer(s)/Potential Employers/Licensing Jurisdictions. Licensee shall provide a copy of this Agreement to any nursing employers or potential nursing employers, and to any jurisdiction in which she holds or seeks a nursing license.
- c) Additional Training. Licensee will take a course, to be pre-approved by the Board's Executive Director, regarding professional boundaries within 60 days of execution of this agreement.
- d) Contact Address/Change of Contact Address – Notification Requirement. Licensee shall provide the Board with a current address at which she may be contacted by the Board. Licensee shall inform the Board in writing within 15 days of any change of her contact information.
- e) Employment Change – Notification Requirement. Licensee will notify the Board in writing within five (5) business days of any change in her nursing employment and/or enrollment in a nursing education program. Notice under this section shall include the place and position of employment and/or the nursing educational program.
- f) Nursing Employment Restrictions. 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 Board Rules. The State of Maine is Licensee'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 principal home for legal purposes relating to her domicile. Other party states in the Compact are referred to as "remote states," which means party states other than the home state that have adopted the Compact. Licensee understands and agrees that this Agreement is applicable to her multi-state licensure privilege, if any, to practice nursing in Compact states.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that while Licensee's license is subject to this Agreement, she may not work outside the State of Maine pursuant to a multi-state privilege without the written permission of the

Maine State Board of Nursing and the Board of Nursing in the party state in which she wishes to work.

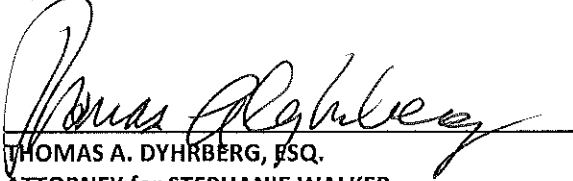
19. Violation of any of the terms or conditions of this Agreement by Licensee shall constitute grounds for discipline including, but not limited to, modification, suspension, or revocation of licensure or the denial of licensure renewal.
20. In accordance with this Agreement and pursuant to 10 M.R.S. §8003(5)(B), the Board and Licensee agree that the Board has the authority to issue an order modifying, suspending, and/or revoking her license in the event that she fails to comply with any of the terms or conditions of this Agreement.
21. In the event that Licensee is alleged to have violated any condition of her probation, the Board will give written notice to her regarding her failure to comply, sent to the last known address that is on file with the Board. Licensee shall, within 30 days from receipt of this notification, submit a written response to the Board regarding the alleged violation. The Board will review Licensee's response to determine what action, if any, it will take. **If the Licensee fails to timely respond to the Board's notification regarding noncompliance, her license may be immediately suspended** pending a hearing at the next scheduled Board meeting. If after notice and hearing, the Board finds that the Licensee has failed to meet probationary conditions, the Board may take any disciplinary action that it deems appropriate and impose any of the sanctions including, but not limited to, that found in 10 M.R.S. §8003 and 32 M.R.S. §2105-A.
22. This Agreement is not appealable and is effective until modified or rescinded by the parties to this Agreement. This Agreement cannot be modified orally. It can only be modified by writing and only if signed by all of the parties to the Agreement and approved by the Office of the Attorney General. Licensee may file a written request, together with any supporting documentation, to modify the terms and conditions of this Agreement. The Board retains the sole discretion to: (a) deny Licensee's request; (b) grant Licensee's request; and/or (c) grant Licensee's request in part as it deems appropriate to ensure the protection of the public. Any decision by the Board as a result of Licensee's request to modify this Agreement need not be made pursuant to a hearing and is not appealable to any court.
23. The Board and the Attorney General may communicate and cooperate regarding Licensee's practice or any other matter relating to this Agreement.
24. This Agreement is a public record within the meaning of 1 M.R.S. §402 and will be available for inspection and copying by the public pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §408-A.
25. This Agreement constitutes adverse action and is reportable to the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) and the Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank (HIPDB).
26. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to affect any right or interest of any person not a party hereto.
27. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term "execution" means that date on which the final signature is affixed to this Agreement.
28. Licensee acknowledges by her signature hereto that she has read this Agreement, that she has had an opportunity to consult with an attorney before executing this Agreement, that she has executed this Agreement of her own free will and that she agrees to abide by all the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement.
29. Upon execution of this Agreement the suspension of the Licensee's license pursuant to the October 4, 2013 Consent Agreement shall be lifted.

DATED: 3-7-2014



LICENSEE STEPHANIE WALKER

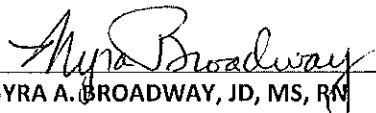
DATED: 3/8/2014



THOMAS A. DYHRBERG, ESQ.
ATTORNEY for STEPHANIE WALKER

FOR THE MAINE STATE BOARD OF NURSING

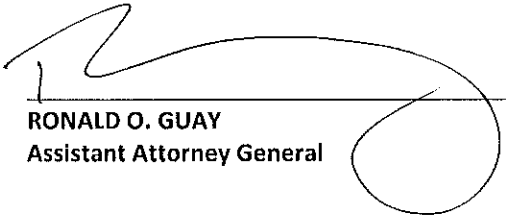
DATED: 3/17/14



MYRA A. BROADWAY, JD, MS, RN
Executive Director

FOR THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DATED: 3/27/14



RONALD O. GUAY
Assistant Attorney General

Effective Date: 3/27/14