

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS**

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

vs.

DEIRDRE COUTURE, NP (NPP37376)

CONSENT ORDER

Pursuant to Section 5-34-24 and 5-34.2-4 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, 2004 Reenactment, and the Rules and Regulations promulgated thereunder, the Rhode Island Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education (hereinafter "Board"), has investigated a complaint charging Deirdre Couturei, RN, (hereinafter "Respondent"), with a violation of Chapter 5-34 and 5-34.2 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island 2004 Reenactment.

After consideration by the Advanced Practice Nurse Advisory 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 and is a Nurse Practitioner licensed to practice as such in the State of Rhode Island.
2. That at all pertinent times, Respondent had a complaint pending with the Board whereas active deliberation and investigation were being conducted.
3. That on or about September 7, 2006, Respondent completed and submitted to the Board an application for a Nurse Practitioner's license and falsely indicated on the application that there were no charges or investigations pending in any state against the Respondent.

4. That the conduct described in paragraph three (3) herein constitutes unprofessional conduct as defined in Section 5-34-24 and the Rules and Regulations promulgated thereunder.

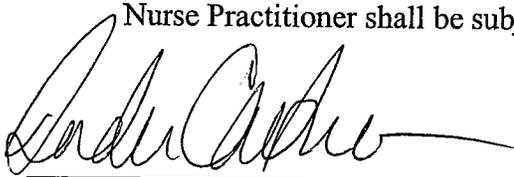
The parties agree as follows:

1. Respondent is a registered nurse practitioner and able to conduct business under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Rhode Island.
2. Respondent admits to the jurisdiction of the Board and hereby agrees to remain under the jurisdiction of the Board.
3. Respondent has read the Consent Order and understands that it is a proposal of the Advanced Practice Nurse Advisory Committee and is subject to the final ratification by the Board. The 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 his 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 the Consent Order;
 - g) Any objection to the fact that the 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 the matter in order to adequately review the Consent Order;
 - i) Any objection to the fact that the Board reviewing the Consent Order may be the same as the Hearing Committee presiding over the matter should it later be brought to an administrative proceeding;
 - j) Any objection to the fact that potential bias against the Respondent may occur as a result of the presentation of the Consent Order to the Board.
5. The Consent Order shall become part of the public record of the proceeding once it is accepted by all parties and accepted by the Board and Respondent's license shall reflect that the status is probationary.
 6. Acceptance by the Respondent and approval by the Board of the Consent Order constitutes an admission of the facts herein.
 7. Failure to comply with the Consent Order, once signed and accepted, shall subject the Respondent to further disciplinary action.
 8. Respondent agrees to a one (1) year suspension of her Nurse Practitioner license, provided however said suspension shall be stayed and Respondent shall serve a period of probation subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Consent Order.
 9. Respondent agrees to a one (1) year period of probation to commence upon ratification of the Order by the Board and will abate for the duration of any period in which Respondent ceases to be employed as a nurse.
 10. That, during the period of probation, Respondent's employer(s) shall submit to the Board reports every three (3) months relating to Respondent's conduct and performance. That it

shall be the responsibility of Respondent to request that his employer(s) submit said reports.

11. That during the period of probation Respondent shall notify the Board forthwith of any changes in her employment, including the name and address of the new employer(s) and the reason for said change.
12. That should Respondent comply with the laws and regulations governing the practice of nursing and comply with the terms of the Order during the one (1) year period of probation she may apply to the Board for an unrestricted license.
13. 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 Order, her license as a Nurse Practitioner shall be subject to suspension or other appropriate disciplinary action.



Deirdre Couture, RN



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 11th day of December 2006.