

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS**

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

vs.

DEIRDRE COUTURE, RN (RN39193)

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 Couture, RN, 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 Investigating 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.
2. That at all pertinent times Respondent was employed at Rhode Island Hospital, Providence, Rhode Island.
3. That on or about May 9, 2005 Respondent entered into a Consent Order wherein Respondent agreed to the sanction of a reprimand in that on or about July 26, 2004 Respondent is alleged to have pulled on a patient's foley catheter, causing him pain in demonstration of the pain that the patient would feel if he pulled it out

himself. Respondent was alleged to have done this after the patient made a first attempt to pull out the catheter.

4. That on or about March 4, 2005, Respondent is alleged to have escorted a patient to the bathroom in the lobby waiting area while the patient was wearing only his underwear. On that same date, Respondent called the Providence Police Department to have a patient removed from the hospital as a trespasser.
5. That the conduct described in paragraphs three (3) and four (4) 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 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.
3. Respondent has read this Consent Order and understands that it is a proposal of the Board and is subject to final ratification by the Board. This 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 her 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 this Consent Order.
 - g) Any objection to the fact that this 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 this matter in order to adequately review this Consent Order;
 - i) Any objection to the fact that the Board reviewing this Consent Order may be the same as the hearing committee presiding over this matter should it later be brought to an administrative hearing.
 - j) Any objection to the fact that potential bias against the Respondent may occur as a result of the presentation of this Consent Order to the Board.
5. This Consent Order shall become part of the public record of this proceeding once it is accepted by all parties and accepted by the Board.
 6. Respondent neither admits nor denies the facts contained herein.
 7. Respondent agrees to accept the sanction of a Reprimand.
 8. That Respondent shall, on or before May 1, 2007, present evidence of enrollment and satisfactory completion, that is, a grade of C or above, in an anger management course and a course in ethics. Said course must be approved by the Board prior to Respondent registering and enrolling in same.
 9. 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 this Order, her

license as a registered nurse practitioner shall be subject to suspension or other appropriate disciplinary action.


Deirdre Couture, RN


President, 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.