

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS**

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

vs.

JOSEPH G. HARPOOL, RN (RN41631)

CONSENT ORDER

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

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 by Rhode Island Hospital.
3. It is alleged that Respondent did provide his telephone number to Patient A patient and did engage in an inappropriate relationship with said patient.
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.

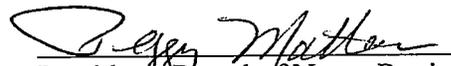
The parties agree as follows:

1. Respondent is a registered nurse and able to conduct business under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Rhode Island, registered license number RN41631.

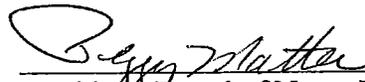
2. Respondent admits to the jurisdiction of the Board and hereby agrees to remain under the jurisdiction of the Board.
3. Respondent has read this Consent Order and understands that it is a proposal of an Investigating Committee of the Board and is subject to final ratification by the Board. This Consent Order is 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 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 this Consent Order will be presented to the Board for consideration and review;
 - i) 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 review adequately this Consent Order;
 - j) Any objection to the fact that potential bias against the Respondent may occur as a result of the presentation of this Consent Order. The signing of this Consent Order is for settlement purposes only.

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 allegations set forth herein.
7. Respondent voluntarily agrees to accept the sanction of a Reprimand.
8. That Respondent shall, on or before 30 May 2012, present evidence of enrollment and satisfactory completion of the following continuing education courses: *Ethics of Nursing, Professional Accountability and Professional Boundaries*. Said courses are offered through the National Council of State Boards of Nursing at <http://learningext.com/groups/b06e8bc419/summary>. The cost of said courses shall be the responsibility of Respondent.
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, his license as a registered nurse shall be subject to suspension or other appropriate disciplinary action.

 12/14/11
Joseph G. Harpool, RN


Peggy Mather
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 9th day of January 2012.


Peggy Mather
President, Board of Nurse Registration
and Nursing Education