

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS**

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

vs.

MELANIE COBURN, RN (RN33561)

RN 05-132

CONSENT ORDER

This matter is before the Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education (hereinafter "Board") upon request submitted by Melanie Coburn RN, Respondent, that her registered nurse license, having been suspended, be reinstated. That on 12 June 2002 the Board issued an Order wherein Respondent's registered nurse license was suspended indefinitely for unprofessional conduct in that on or about 4 March 1999 Respondent entered into the Non Disciplinary Alternative Program as required by the Board by the Rhode Island Attorney General's Diversion Program. After consideration by the Investigating Committee of the Board, it was agreed by an between the parties:

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 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 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 proceeding;
- 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 and Respondent's license shall reflect that the status is probationary.

6. Acceptance by the Respondent and approval by the Board of this Consent Order constitutes an admission of the facts contained herein.

7. Failure to comply with the Consent Order, once signed and accepted, shall subject the Respondent to further disciplinary action.
8. That the Respondent's license to practice as a registered nurse is reinstated and that Respondent shall serve at least a three (3) year period of probation subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this order.
9. That said probationary period shall commence upon the date of the execution of this Consent Order by all the parties and will abate for the duration of any period in which Respondent ceases to be employed as a nurse. Upon employment as a registered nurse Respondent shall notify the Board as to the name and address of the employer and the date employment commenced.
10. That, during the period of probation, Respondent shall submit to the Board evaluations from the employer at three (3) month intervals relating to Respondent's conduct and performance; that it shall be the responsibility of Respondent to have the employer submit said reports.
11. That during the period of probation Respondent shall notify the Board forthwith of any changes in employment, including the name and address of the new employer(s) and the reason for said change.
12. The Respondent agrees that she will continue in individual counseling and or treatment for drug and or alcohol abuse approve by the Board, and shall continue such counseling and or treatment programs as the healthcare professional rendering her care deems appropriate including but not limited to, attendance at a minimum of three (3) AA and NA meetings/ week and to include sponsorship, nursing assistance and nurse support groups as needed.

13. Respondent waives confidentiality of treatment and will direct the healthcare professional rendering treatment to release any progress reports to the Board including, but not limited to, quarterly progress reports and monthly and random urine and drug screening reports for the duration of the Respondent's treatment program.
14. That, during the period of probation, Respondent shall not work in a staffing agency and/or pool or in a home health environment. That Respondent shall work under the supervision of a registered nurse at all times. The registered nurse must be physically present in the facility at all times in which Respondent is on duty.
15. This Consent Order will be transmitted forthwith to the healthcare professional which is hereby directed by the Respondent to notify the Board of any breach or termination by the Respondent of his treatment.
16. That should Respondent comply with the laws and regulations governing the practice of nursing during the period of probation and comply with the requirements of this Consent Order, Respondent may apply to the Board for an unrestricted license to practice as a registered nurse.
17. 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, the license as a registered nurse shall be subject to suspension or other appropriate disciplinary action.
18. This Consent Order constitutes a final order of the Department of Health pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-35-12. Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-35-12, a final order may be appealed to the Superior Court sitting in and for the County of Providence within thirty (30) days of the mailing date of this decision. Such appeal, if taken, must be completed by filing a petition for review in Superior Court. The filing of

the complaint does not itself stay enforcement of this order. The agency may grant, or the reviewing court may order, a stay upon the appropriate terms. By signing this Consent Order, Respondent has waived the appellate rights stated herein.

Melanie(Coburn) Choquette Sharon Smith

Melanie Coburn, 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 14 day of November 2005.