

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS BRANCH**

In Re: Elaine McNamara, R.N.

Petition No. 2009-0109-010-001

CONSENT ORDER

WHEREAS, Elaine McNamara (hereinafter "respondent") of Milford, Connecticut has been issued license number E49140 to practice as a registered nurse by the Department of Public Health (hereinafter "the Department") pursuant to Chapter 378 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, as amended; and,

WHEREAS, respondent hereby admits and acknowledges that:

1. Respondent was employed at DaVita Unified Dialysis in Milford, CT and had access to Dr. Fogel's prescription blanks. On or about December 12, 2008, respondent took one of Dr. Fogel's prescription blanks and forged a prescription for herself for Percocet. Subsequently, when she attempted to fill the prescription at Big Y Pharmacy in Stratford, CT, the pharmacist verified that said prescription was a forgery and called the local police. Respondent was then arrested for second degree forgery and making a false prescription. Respondent admitted to the arresting officer that she forged the prescription because she has had a "problem with pills" for approximately one year.
2. The above described facts constitute grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to the General Statutes of Connecticut, §20-99(b), including but not limited to:
 - a. §20-99 (b)(2);
 - b. §20-99 (b)(5); and/or,
 - c. §20-99 (b)(6);

Department. Said termination of therapy, reduction in frequency of therapy, and/or respondent's transfer to another therapist shall not occur until approved by the Board after consultation with the Department. However, if therapy is terminated with approval of the Board, respondent's therapist shall continue to monitor her alcohol and drug free status by monitoring and reviewing the observed random urine screens for drugs and alcohol as described in paragraph 3B below, and by providing the reports described in paragraph 3C below.

- (4) The therapist shall immediately notify the Board and the Department in writing if respondent discontinues therapy and/or terminates his/her services.

B. Respondent shall not obtain or use controlled substances, legend drugs or alcohol in any form unless prescribed or recommended for a legitimate therapeutic purpose by a licensed health care professional authorized to prescribe medications. Respondent shall inform said health care professional of respondent's substance abuse history.

- (1) At her own expense, she shall submit to observed random urine screens for drugs and alcohol, in accordance with Department Requirements for Drug and Alcohol Screens, attached hereto marked as ("Attachment 'A': Department Requirements for Drug and Alcohol Screens") at a testing facility approved by the Board, after consultation with the Department, as ordered by her therapist and/or personal physician. Laboratory reports of random alcohol and drug screens and/or any other drug or alcohol related laboratory reports, including but not limited to results of DNA testing, shall be submitted directly to the Board and the Department by respondent's therapist or personal physician or by the testing laboratory. All such observed random drug and alcohol screens shall be legally defensible in that the

- (6) Respondent is hereby advised that the ingestion of poppy seeds and mouthwash has, from time to time, been raised as a defense to a positive screen result for morphine, opiates and/or alcohol. For that reason, respondent agrees to refrain from ingesting poppy seeds in any food substances or mouthwash during the term of this Consent Order. In the event respondent has a positive screen for morphine, opiates and/or alcohol, respondent agrees that the ingestion of poppy seeds and/or mouthwash shall not constitute a defense to such a screen.
- C. Respondent shall be responsible for the provision of written reports from her therapist directly to the Board and the Department for the entire probationary period; monthly for the first and fourth year of probation; and, quarterly reports for the second and third year of probation. Such reports shall include documentation of dates of treatment, an evaluation of respondent's progress in treatment and of her drug and alcohol free status as established by the observed random urine screens for drugs and alcohol, an evaluation of her ability to safely and competently practice nursing, and copies of all laboratory reports.
- D. Notwithstanding the foregoing, respondent's therapist shall immediately report to the Board and the Department any confirmed positive alcohol/drug screen and any conduct or condition on respondent's part which does or may violate any federal or state statute or regulation applicable to her profession.
- E. Respondent shall provide a copy of this Consent Order to all current and future employers for the duration of her probation.

institution or, if not an institution, to respondent's instructor. Such institution or instructor shall notify the Department of receipt of the Consent Order within fifteen (15) days of receipt.

- L. All reports required by the terms of this Consent Order shall be due according to a schedule to be established by the Department of Public Health.
- M. All correspondence and reports shall be addressed to:

Bonnie Pinkerton
Department of Public Health
Practitioner Licensing and Investigations
410 Capitol Avenue, MS #12HSR
P.O. Box 340308
Hartford, CT 06134-0308

- 4. Any violation of the terms of this Consent Order without prior written approval by the Board shall constitute grounds for the Department to seek revocation of respondent's nursing license following notice and an opportunity to be heard.
- 5. Any extension of time or grace period for reporting granted by the Board shall not be a waiver or preclude the Board's right to take action at a later time. The Board shall not be required to grant future extensions of time or grace periods.
- 6. Legal notice of any action shall be deemed sufficient if sent to respondent's last known address of record reported to the Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section of the Healthcare Systems Branch of the Department.
- 7. This Consent Order is effective on the first day of the month immediately following the month in which this Consent Order is approved and accepted by the Board.
- 8. Respondent understands this Consent Order is a matter of public record.
- 9. Respondent understands this Consent Order may be considered as evidence of the above admitted violations in any proceeding before the Board in which (1) her compliance with this

while practicing outside Connecticut if pre-approved by the Department. In the event respondent intends to return to the practice of nursing in Connecticut, respondent shall provide the Department with thirty (30) days prior written notice and agrees to comply with all terms and conditions contained in paragraph 3 above.

12. In the event respondent violates any term of this Consent Order, said violation may also constitute grounds for the Department to seek a summary suspension of respondent's license before the Board.
13. This Consent Order and terms set forth herein are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review under any form or in any forum. Further, this Consent Order is not subject to appeal or review under the provisions of Chapters 54 and 368a of the General Statutes of Connecticut, provided that this stipulation shall not deprive respondent of any other rights that respondent may have under the laws of the State of Connecticut or of the United States.
14. Respondent permits a representative of the Department to present this Consent Order and the factual basis for this Consent Order to the Board. The Department and respondent understand that the Board has complete and final discretion as to whether an executed Consent Order is approved or accepted.
15. This Consent Order is a revocable offer of settlement, which may be modified by mutual agreement or withdrawn by the Department at any time prior to its being executed by the last signatory.
16. Respondent has had the opportunity to consult with an attorney prior to signing this document.
17. The execution of this document has no bearing on any criminal liability without the written consent of the Director of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit or the Bureau Chief of the

I, Elaine McNamara, have read the above Consent Order, and I agree to the terms set forth therein. I further declare the execution of this Consent Order to be my free act and deed.

Elaine Z. McNamara
Elaine McNamara

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 25th day of March, 2009.

Trinidad E. Inguerra
Notary Public or person authorized
by law to administer an oath or affirmation
M/C/E: 11-30-2011

The above Consent Order having been presented to the duly appointed agent of the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health on the 2nd day of April, 2009, it is hereby accepted.

Jennifer Filippone
Jennifer Filippone, Section Chief,
Practitioner Licensing and Investigations
Healthcare Systems Branch

The above Consent Order having been presented to the duly appointed agent of the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing on the 15th day of April, 2009, it is hereby ordered and accepted.

BY: Patricia C. Bufford
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing

s:lf/McNamara/CO