

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

In Re: Phyllis Miller, L.P.N.

Petition No. 2008-0327-011-016

CONSENT ORDER

WHEREAS, Phyllis Miller (hereinafter "respondent") of Naugatuck, Connecticut has been issued license number 027024 to practice as a licensed practical nurse by the Department of Public Health (hereinafter "the Department") pursuant to Chapter 378 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, as amended; and,

WHEREAS, the Department alleges that:

1. On or about September 4, 2007, respondent was employed at Glendale Center, a skilled nursing facility located in Naugatuck Connecticut. Respondent was apprised by Griffin Hospital's Laboratory that a patient possessed a critical potassium level of 7.3 mEq/L, but did not inform her nursing supervisor of said laboratory result in a timely manner.
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 Section 20-99(b)(2).

WHEREAS, respondent, in consideration of this Consent Order, while admitting no guilt or wrongdoing, has chosen not to contest the above allegations at a hearing in front of the Board of Examiners for Nursing (hereinafter "the Board"). Respondent further agrees that this Consent Order shall have the same effect as if ordered after a full hearing pursuant to §§19a-9, 19a-10, and 20-99(a) of the General Statutes of Connecticut.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to §19a-17 and §20-99(a) of the General Statutes of Connecticut, respondent hereby stipulates and agrees to the following:

1. Respondent waives her right to a hearing on the merits of this matter.
2. Respondent shall comply with all federal and state statutes and regulations applicable to her profession.
3. Respondent's license number 027024 to practice as a licensed practical nurse in the State of Connecticut is hereby placed on probation for one year, subject to the following terms and conditions:
 - A. Respondent shall be responsible for the provision of written reports directly to the Board and the Department from her nursing supervisor (i.e., Director of Nursing) monthly for the duration of her probation. Respondent shall provide a copy of this Consent Order to any and all employers if employed as a nurse during the probationary period. The Board and the Department shall be notified in writing by any employer(s) within fifteen (15) days of the commencement of employment as to the receipt of a copy of this Consent Order. Employer reports shall include documentation of respondent's ability to safely and competently practice nursing, and shall be issued to the Board and the Department at the address cited in paragraph 3F below.
 - B. Within the first six (6) months of the probationary period, respondent shall attend and successfully complete coursework in laboratory values, with emphasis on electrolyte imbalance and critical thinking and problem-solving skills, pre-approved by the Department. Within thirty (30) days of the completion of such coursework, respondent

shall provide the Department with proof, to the Department's satisfaction, of the successful completion of such course(s).

- C. Respondent shall notify the Board and the Department in writing of any change of employment within fifteen (15) days of such change.
- D. Respondent shall notify the Board and the Department of any change in her home or business address within fifteen (15) days of such change.
- E. 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.
- F. 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 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. The Department's allegations as contained in this Consent Order shall be deemed true in any subsequent proceeding before the Board in which (1) her compliance with this same order is at issue, or (2) her compliance with §20-99(b) of the General Statutes of Connecticut, as amended, is at issue. Further, respondent understands that any discipline imposed by this Consent Order shall be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank
10. In the event respondent violates a term of this Consent Order, respondent agrees immediately to refrain from practicing as a licensed practical nurse, upon request by the Department, with notice to the Board, for a period not to exceed 45 days. During that time period, respondent further agrees to cooperate with the Department in its investigation of the violation.
Respondent further agrees that failure to cooperate with the Department in its investigation during said 45 day period shall constitute grounds for the Department to seek a summary suspension of respondent's license. In any such summary action, respondent stipulates that failure to cooperate with the Department's investigation shall be considered by the Board and shall be given due weight by the Board in determining whether respondent's conduct constitutes a clear and immediate danger as required pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, sections 4-182(c) and 19a-17(c). The Department and respondent understand that the Board has complete and final discretion as to whether a summary suspension is ordered.
11. 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.
12. In the event respondent is not employed as a nurse for periods of thirty (30) consecutive days or longer, respondent shall notify the Department in writing. Such periods of time shall not be

counted in reducing the probationary period covered by this Consent Order and such terms shall be held in abeyance. During such time period, respondent shall not be responsible for complying with the terms of probation of this Consent Order.

13. If, during the period of probation, respondent practices nursing outside Connecticut, she shall provide written notice to the Department concerning such employment. During such time period, respondent shall not be responsible for complying with the terms of probation of this Consent Order. Respondent may comply with the terms of probation outside Connecticut, if pre-approved by the Department. In the event respondent intends to return to the practice of nursing in Connecticut, respondent agrees to comply with all terms and conditions contained in paragraph 3 above.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. 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.

17. Respondent has had the opportunity to consult with an attorney prior to signing this document.
18. 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 Division of Criminal Justice's Statewide Prosecution Bureau.

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I, Phyllis Miller, 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.

Phyllis Miller LPN
Phyllis Miller, L.P.N.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 11th day of October, 2008.

George W. Miller
Notary Public or person authorized
by law to administer an oath or affirmation
my Commission Expires 9/30/2012

The above Consent Order having been presented to the duly appointed agent of the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health on the 17th day of October, 2008, 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 5th day of November, 2008, it is hereby ordered and accepted.

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