

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS BRANCH

In Re: Ann E. Cocks, A.P.R.N.

Petition No. 2006-0526-012-002

CONSENT ORDER

WHEREAS, Ann E. Cocks (hereinafter "respondent") of Norwich, Connecticut has been issued license number 001927 to practice as an advanced practice 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, the Department alleges that:

1. At all relevant times respondent was working as an advanced practice registered nurse at Riverside Health and Rehabilitation Center in East Hartford, Connecticut (hereinafter "the facility").
2. On about November 7, 2005 respondent was notified by a licensed practical nurse that a male patient at the facility was experiencing abdominal pain and constipation. Respondent failed to personally assess the patient before prescribing Senokot and Lactulose. On about November 8, 2005 the patient was sent to the emergency room and treated for a perforated cecum and peritonitis.
3. The above-described facts constitute grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to the General Statutes of Connecticut, 20-99(b), including but not limited to 20-99(b)(2).

WHEREAS, respondent, in consideration of this Consent Order, has chosen not to contest the above allegations at a hearing in front of the State Board of Examiners for Nursing (hereinafter "the

Board"). Respondent does not admit to having violated any statute or regulation, including but not limited to §20-99(b) of the General Statutes of Connecticut. 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's license number 001927 to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse in the State of Connecticut is hereby reprimanded.
3. Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of one-thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) by certified or cashier's check payable to "Treasurer, State of Connecticut." The check shall reference the Petition Number on the face of the check, and shall be payable at the time respondent submits the executed Consent Order to the Department.
4. Respondent shall comply with all federal and state statutes and regulations applicable to her profession.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Respondent understands this Consent Order is a matter of public record.

8. 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, except for a civil penalty, shall be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. Respondent has had the opportunity to consult with an attorney prior to signing this document.
13. 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.

I, Ann E. Cocks, 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.

Ann E. Cocks
Ann E. Cocks, A.P.R.N.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12th day of December, 2007.

Karen H. Chadderton
Notary Public or person authorized
by law to administer an oath or affirmation

Karen H. Chadderton
Notary Public, State of Connecticut
My Commission Expires May 31, 2012

The above Consent Order having been presented to the duly appointed agent of the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health on the 7th day of January, 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 State Board of Examiners for Nursing on the 6th day of February, 2007, it is hereby ordered and accepted.

BY: *Nancy L. Gagnon*
Connecticut State Board of Examiners for Nursing