

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY BRANCH

In Re: Jessica Johnson, R.N., A.P.R.N.

Petition Nos. 2011-1230 and 2011-1231

CONSENT ORDER

WHEREAS, Jessica Johnson (hereinafter "respondent") of New Britain, Connecticut has been issued license number 075380 to practice as a registered nurse and license number 003432 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. Pursuant to a Consent Order dated August 19, 2009 in Petition Nos. 2008-0411-010-43 and 2008-0411-012-003 (hereinafter "the 2009 Consent Order"), respondent's registered nurse license and advanced practice registered nurse license were placed on probation for a period of four (4) years in connection with her admitted abuse and/or excessive use of drugs, including heroin, oxycontin, cocaine, benzodiazepine and/or alcohol. The 2009 Consent Order requires, without limitation, that respondent submit to observed random urine screens for drugs and alcohol, that respondent provide written reports from her therapist that include an evaluation of her ability to safely and competently practice nursing and that respondent provide written reports from her employer that include documentation of respondent's ability to safely and competently practice nursing.
2. Subsequently, on or about October 31 and/or December 1, 2011, respondent failed to present herself for urine screening in accordance with the requirements of the 2009 Consent Order;

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3. On or about December 1, 2011 and/or on multiple occasions prior to said date, respondent appeared impaired at work and/or exhibited behavioral changes such as psychomotor slowing, slurred speech, shaking of hands, imbalance, excessive blinking of her eyes and/or inability to maintain wakefulness;
4. In a report dated on or about January 12, 2012, respondent's employer reported that it was undetermined whether respondent appears to practice nursing with reasonable skill and safety; and/or
5. In a report dated on or about January 17, 2012, respondent's therapist reported that it was unclear whether respondent appears capable of practicing nursing with reasonable skill and safety.
6. The above described facts constitute violations of the terms of probation set forth in the 2009 Consent Order and/or grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to the General Statutes of Connecticut, §20-99(b);

WHEREAS, respondent, in consideration of this Consent Order, has chosen not to contest the above allegations at a hearing in front of the 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.

WHEREAS, the Board issued an order on February 1, 2012 summarily suspending respondent's license number 075380 to practice as a registered nurse and respondent's license number 003432 to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse in the State of Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, the Department and respondent agree to terminate the 2009 Consent Order and enter into this Consent Order; and

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 075380 to practice as a registered nurse and license number 003432 to practice as an advanced practice nurse in the State of Connecticut shall be suspended for a period of four (4) months.
4. Concurrently, respondent's license number 075380 to practice as a registered nurse and license number 003432 to practice as an advanced practice nurse in the State of Connecticut shall be placed on probation for a period of four (4) years and four (4) months, subject to the following terms and conditions:
 - A. At her own expense, she shall engage in therapy and counseling with a Connecticut licensed or certified therapist (hereinafter "therapist") approved by the Board and the Department for the entire probationary period.
 - (1) She shall provide a copy of this Consent Order to her therapist.

- (2) Her therapist shall furnish written confirmation to the Board and the Department of his or her engagement in that capacity and receipt of a copy of this Consent Order within fifteen (15) days of the effective date of this Consent Order.
 - (3) If respondent's therapist determines that therapy is no longer necessary, that a reduction in frequency of therapy is warranted, or that respondent should be transferred to another therapist, he or she shall advise the Board and the 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 4B below, and by providing the reports described in paragraph 4C 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 shall be submitted directly to the Board and the Department ^{and respondent} by the testing laboratory. All such observed random drug and alcohol screens shall be legally defensible in that the specimen donor and chain of custody can be identified throughout the screening process. All laboratory reports shall indicate that the chain of custody procedure has been followed.

- (2) Respondent shall be responsible for notifying the laboratory, her therapist, the Board, the Department and her prescribing practitioner of any drug(s) she is taking. For the prescription of a controlled substance(s) for more than two consecutive weeks, the respondent shall cause the provider prescribing the controlled substance(s) to submit quarterly reports to the Board and the Department, until such time as the controlled substance(s) are not prescribed by the provider, documenting the following:
 1. A list of controlled substances prescribed by this provider for the respondent;
 2. A list of controlled substance(s) prescribed by other providers;
 3. An evaluation of the respondent's need for the controlled substance;
 4. An assessment of the respondent's continued need for the controlled substance(s).
- (3) There must be at least one (1) such observed random alcohol/drug screen and accompanying laboratory report every week for the first sixteen (16) months and

for the last twelve (12) months of probation; and, at least two (2) such screens and reports every month for the remainder of the probationary period.

- (4) All screens shall be negative for the presence of drugs and alcohol.
- (5) All positive screen results shall be confirmed by gas chromatograph/mass spectrometer (GC/MS) testing.
- (6) Respondent is hereby advised that the ingestion of poppy seeds, mouthwash and over the counter cough or cold medicines or remedies 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, mouthwash and over the counter cough or cold medicines or remedies 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 and/or over the counter cough or cold medicines or remedies 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 sixteen (16) months and for the last twelve (12) months of probation; and, quarterly reports for the remainder of the probationary period. 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.
- F. Respondent shall not be employed as a nurse for a personnel provider service, assisted living services agency, homemaker - home health aide agency, or home health care agency, and shall not be self-employed as a nurse for the period of her probation. In addition, during the period of probation, respondent shall only practice as an advanced practice registered nurse in an office and practice setting that physically includes other licensed physicians and/or other licensed physician assistants and/or other licensed advanced practice registered nurses on-site while respondent is practicing as an advanced practice registered nurse at said office and practice setting.
- G. Respondent shall not administer, count, or have access to narcotics or other controlled substances, or have responsibility for such activities in the course of her nursing duties for the first year after returning to work as a nurse.
- H. Following the four (4) month period of suspension of her nursing licenses, 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 first twelve (12) month period following her suspension and for the last twelve (12) months of her probation; and quarterly for the remainder of probation the probationary period. 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 4N below.

- I. Respondent shall notify the Board and the Department in writing of any change of employment within fifteen (15) days of such change.
- J. Respondent shall notify the Board and the Department of any change in her home or business address within fifteen (15) days of such change.
- K. Respondent shall notify the Board and the Department within fourteen (14) days of any change in the status of any controlled substance registrations that respondent may be issued, including, without limitation her lapsed state controlled substance registration from the Drug Control Division of the Department of Consumer Protection. Should respondent obtain said registration(s), her controlled substance prescribing, ordering, and dispensing practices shall be monitored by a licensed physician, pre-approved by the Department (hereinafter "supervisor"), for a period of one (1) year, upon issuance of said registrations, as set forth below. Respondent further agrees that if the probationary period has already terminated at the time respondent obtains such registrations, the probationary period shall be extended or reinstated to ensure that the one (1) year period of monitoring is completed. If the probationary period is extended or reinstated to comply with this provision, no other terms of probation shall be extended or reinstated. During this period of monitoring respondent shall:

- (1) Maintain a log of all controlled substances dispensed to patients as well as all prescriptions for controlled substances, both written and authorized by phone.
- (2) Maintain copies of all orders placed to wholesalers for controlled substances, as well as records of receipts.
- (3) Obtain, at her own expense, the services of a supervisor to conduct monthly random reviews of twenty percent (20%) or twenty (20) of respondent's patient records, whichever is the larger number. In the event that respondent has twenty (20) or fewer patients, the supervisor shall review all of respondent's records. As part of such review, the supervisor shall review and compare respondent's patient records, office dispensing records, controlled substance log, and controlled substance purchase and receipt records to ensure that controlled substances have been appropriately ordered and maintained. The supervisor may monitor respondent's practice by any other reasonable means which he or she deems appropriate, and respondent shall fully cooperate with the supervisor in such additional monitoring.
- (4) Respondent shall be responsible for the supervisor providing written reports to the Department and the Board within two weeks of each monthly review. Such reports shall include: documentation of the dates and duration of meetings with respondent; the number and a general description of the patient records reviewed; a statement regarding respondent's controlled substance purchasing, prescribing, and dispensing practices; any additional monitoring techniques utilized; and, a statement that respondent is practicing with reasonable skill and safety.

- L. If respondent pursues further training or is engaged at the time of the implementation of the Consent Order, in an educational program in any subject area that is regulated by the Department, respondent shall provide a copy of this Consent Order to the educational 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.
- M. 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.
- N. 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

- 5. 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. Respondent shall pay all costs necessary to comply with this Consent Order.
- 6. 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.
- 7. 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 Quality and Safety Branch of the Department.

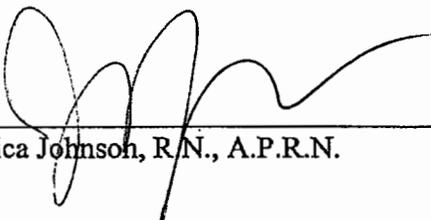
8. This Consent Order is effective on the first day of the month immediately following the month in which this Consent Order is approved and accepted by the Board.
9. Respondent understands this Consent Order is a matter of public record.
10. The Department's allegations as contained in this Consent 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.
11. In the event respondent violates a term of this Consent Order, respondent agrees immediately to refrain from practicing as a registered nurse and an advanced practice registered 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, and to submit to and complete a medical, psychiatric or psychological evaluation, if requested to do so by the Department; and, that the results of the evaluation shall be submitted directly to the Department. ^{and respondent} 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 licenses. 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.

12. 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, and such time period shall not be counted in reducing the probationary period covered by this Consent Order. Respondent may comply with the terms of probation 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 4 above.
13. 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 licenses before the Board.
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. Respondent understands that this Consent Order shall not be subject to modification as a result of any claim that the terms contained herein may result in action by third parties, including, but not limited to, healthcare facilities and/or credentialing or licensure boards. Respondent assumes all responsibility for assessing such actions prior to the execution of this document. 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.

hand respondent (S)

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 State's Attorney's Office where the allegation occurred or Bureau Chief of the applicable unit in the Chief State's Attorney's Office. The purpose of this Consent Order is to resolve the pending administrative license disciplinary petition only, and is not intended to affect any civil or criminal liability or defense.
19. This Consent Order embodies the entire agreement of the parties with respect to this case. All previous communications or agreements regarding the subject matter of this consent order, whether oral or written, between the parties are superseded unless expressly incorporated herein or made a part hereof.

I, Jessica Johnson, 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.



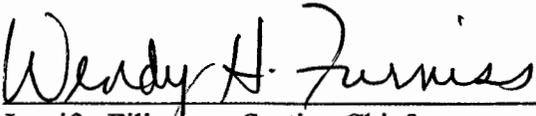
Jessica Johnson, R.N., A.P.R.N.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 13 day of July, 2012.



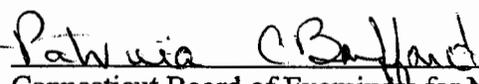
Notary Public or person authorized
by law to administer an oath or affirmation

The above Consent Order having been presented to the duly appointed agent of the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health on the 16th day of July, 2012, it is hereby accepted.


Wendy H. Furniss


~~Jennifer Filippone, Section Chief,~~
~~Practitioner Licensing and Investigations~~
Healthcare Quality and Safety Branch

The above Consent Order having been presented to the duly appointed agent of the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing on the 18th day of July, 2012, it is hereby ordered and accepted.

BY: 

Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing

s:ll/Johnson/BOENCO



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

December 4, 2012

Jessica Johnson, RN, APRN
79 New Road
Avon, CT 06001

Re: Consent Order
Petition Nos. 2011-1230 and 2011-1231
License Nos. 10.075380 and 12.003432

Dear Ms. Johnson:

Please accept this letter as notice that your license suspension is vacated, effective December 1, 2012. Your license probation continues until December 1, 2016.

Very truly yours,

Bonnie Pinkerton, RN, Nurse Consultant
Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section

cc: J. Filippone
J. Wojick



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