

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF HEALING ARTS
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS**

KS State Board of Healing Arts

In the matter of)	
)	Docket No. 09-HA-00032
Ronda A. Copple, R.T.)	
Kansas License No. 16-01917)	

CONSENT ORDER

COMES NOW, the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts, (“Board”), by and through Kathleen Selzler Lippert, Associate Counsel (“Petitioner”), and Ronda Copple, R.T. (“Licensee”), *pro se*, and move the Board for approval of a Consent Order affecting Licensee’s license to practice respiratory therapy in the State of Kansas. The Parties stipulate and agree to the following:

1. Licensee’s last known mailing address to the Board is: 416 E. 12th Street, Concordia, Kansas 66901.
2. Licensee is or has been entitled to engage in the practice of respiratory therapy in the State of Kansas, having been issued License No. 16-01917 on approximately August 17, 1996. Licensee’s license is active.
3. The Board is the sole and exclusive administrative agency in the State of Kansas authorized to regulate the practice of the healing arts, specifically the practice of respiratory therapy. K.S.A. 65-5501 et seq. and K.S.A. 65-5502.
4. This Consent Order and the filing of such document are in accordance with applicable law and the Board has jurisdiction to enter into the Consent Order as provided by K.S.A. 77-505 and 65-2838. Upon approval, these stipulations shall

Consent Order
Ronda A. Copple, RT

constitute the findings of the Board, and this Consent Order shall constitute the Board's Final Order.

5. The Kansas Respiratory Therapy Practice Act is constitutional on its face and as applied in the case.
6. Licensee agrees that, in considering this matter, the Board is not acting beyond its jurisdiction as provided by law.
7. Licensee voluntarily and knowingly waives her right to a hearing. Licensee voluntarily and knowingly waives her right to present a defense by oral testimony and documentary evidence, to submit rebuttal evidence, and to conduct cross-examination of witnesses. Licensee voluntarily and knowingly agrees to waive all possible substantive and procedural motions and defenses that could be raised if an administrative hearing were held.
8. The terms and conditions of the Consent Order are entered into between the undersigned parties and are submitted for the purpose of allowing these terms and conditions to become an Order of the Board. This Consent Order shall not be binding on the Board until an authorized signature is affixed at the end of this document. Licensee specifically acknowledges that counsel for the Board is not authorized to sign this Consent Order on behalf of the Board.
9. The Board has received information and investigated the same, and has reason to believe that there may be grounds pursuant to K.S.A. K.A.R. 100-55-55-5(d), to take action with respect to Licensee's license under the Respiratory Therapy Practice Act, K.S.A. 65-5501, *et seq.*

10. During September 2007, Licensee was employed by Cloud County Health Center (CCHC) as a respiratory therapist.
11. On or about September 7, 2007, Licensee was on call as a respiratory therapist for CCHC and went out drinking with friends.
12. During the late night hours of September 7 or the early morning hours of September 8, 2007, Licensee was called and paged to the emergency room for CCHC for a patient in critical condition. Licensee did not answer the call or page.
- 13 Licensee was scheduled to work on September 8, 2007 at 7:00 am for CCHC but failed to report to work on time. Hospital staff went to Licensee's residence at approximately 8:15 – 8:30 am and found Licensee still asleep.
- 14 **(Confidential)**

15 **(Confidential)**

16. **(Confidential)**

17. **(Confidential)**

18. Licensee acknowledges that if formal hearing proceedings were conducted and Licensee presented no exhibits, witnesses or other evidence, the Board has sufficient evidence to prove that Licensee has violated the Respiratory Therapy Practice Act with respect to the above allegations. Licensee further waives her right to dispute or otherwise contest the allegations contained in the above paragraphs in any further proceeding before this Board.
- 19 **(Confidential)**
- 20 Licensee's acts, if proven, constitute unprofessional conduct as set forth in K.S.A. 65-5510.
- 21 Licensee violated K.S.A. 65-5510, as set forth in K.A.R. 100-55-5(i), in that she was sanctioned or disciplined by medical care facility for acts or conduct that would constitute grounds for discipline.
- 22 Pursuant to K.S.A. 65-5510 the Board has grounds to deny, revoke, suspend, limit, or censure Licensee's license.
23. According to K.S.A.65-2838(b), the Board has authority to enter into this Consent Order without the necessity of proceeding to a formal hearing.
24. All pending investigation materials regarding Licensee were fully reviewed and considered by the Board member(s) who serve on the Board's Disciplinary Panel. Disciplinary Panel No. 23 authorized and directed Board counsel to seek settlement of this matter with the provisions contained in this Consent Order.

25 In lieu of conducting a formal proceeding, Licensee, by signature affixed to this Consent Order, hereby voluntarily agrees to the following disciplinary action on her license to engage in the practice of respiratory therapy:

CENSURE

- a. Licensee is publicly censured for violating the Respiratory Therapy Practice Act. For violation of KAR 100-55-5 (i) *KRSJ*
ML
- (Confidential)**

(Confidential)

e.

f.

g.

h.

- i. Licensee shall immediately notify the Board or its designee of any citation, arrest or charge filed against her or of any conviction for traffic or criminal offenses.

- j. Licensee shall at all times keep Board staff informed of all her current practice locations, addresses and telephone numbers. Licensee shall provide the above information in writing to the Board within ten (10) days of any such change.

MONITORING TIMEFRAME

- k. The above monitoring provisions are not self-terminating. After a period of five (5) years, Licensee may request modification or termination of the provisions. For any period of time that Licensee is not actively practicing respiratory therapy in Kansas, the monitoring provisions and limitations will remain in effect but will be tolled and not counted towards reducing the five (5) year timeframe.

26 Licensee's failure to comply with the provisions of the Consent Order may result in the Board taking further disciplinary action as the Board deems appropriate according to the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act and Kansas Healing Arts Act.

27. Nothing in this Consent Order shall be construed to deny the Board jurisdiction to investigate alleged violations of the Respiratory Therapy Practice Act, or to investigate complaints received under the Risk Management Law, K.S.A. 64-4921 et seq., that are known or unknown and are not covered under this Consent Order, or to initiate formal proceedings based upon known or unknown allegations of violations of the Respiratory Therapy Practice Act.

28. Licensee hereby releases the Board, its individual members (in their official and personal capacity), attorneys, employees and agents, hereinafter collectively

referred to as “Releasees”, from any and all claims, including but not limited to those alleged damages, actions, liabilities, both administrative and civil, including the Kansas Act for Judicial Review and Civil Enforcement of Agency Actions, K.S.A. 77-601 et seq. arising out of the investigation and acts leading to the execution of this Consent Order. This release shall forever discharge the Releasees of any and all claims or demands of every kind and nature that Licensee has claimed to have had at the time of this release or might have had, either known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, and Licensee shall not commence to prosecute, cause or permit to be prosecuted, any action or proceeding of any description against the Releasees.

- 29 Licensee further understands and agrees that upon signature by Licensee, this document shall be deemed a public record and shall be reported to any reporting entities authorized to receive disclosure of the Consent Order.
- 30 This Consent Order, when signed by both parties, constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and may only be modified or amended by a subsequent document executed in the same manner by the parties.
- 31 Licensee agrees that all information maintained by the Board pertaining to the nature and result of any complaint and/or investigation may be fully disclosed to and considered by the Board in conjunction with the presentation of any offer of settlement, even if Licensee is not present. Licensee further acknowledges that the Board may conduct further inquiry as it deems necessary before the complete or partial acceptance or rejection of any offer of settlement.

32. Licensee, by signature to this document, waives any objection to the participation of the Board members, including the Disciplinary Panel and General Counsel, in the consideration of this offer of settlement and agrees not to seek the disqualification or recusal of any Board member or General Counsel in any future proceedings on the basis that the Board member or General Counsel has received investigative information from any source which otherwise may not be admissible or admitted as evidence.
33. Licensee acknowledges that she has read this Consent Order and fully understands the contents.
34. Licensee acknowledges that this Consent Order has been entered into freely and voluntarily.
35. All correspondence or communication between Licensee and the Board relating to the Consent Order shall be by certified mail addressed to the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts, Attn: Compliance Coordinator, 235 S. Topeka Blvd., Topeka, Kansas 66603-3068.
36. Licensee shall obey all federal, state and local laws and rules governing the practice of respiratory therapy in the State of Kansas that may be in place at the time of execution of the Consent Order or may become effective subsequent to the execution of this document.
37. Upon execution of this Consent Order by affixing a Board authorized signature below, the provisions of this Consent Order shall become an Order under K.S.A. 65-2838. This Consent Order shall constitute the Board's Order when filed with

the office of the Executive Director for the Board and no further Order is required.

38 This Consent Order constitutes disciplinary action.

39 The Board may consider all aspects of this Consent Order in any future matter regarding Licensee.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Consent Order and agreement of the parties contained herein is adopted by the Board as findings of fact and conclusions of law.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

CENSURE

- a. Licensee is publicly censured for violating the Respiratory Therapy Practice Act. For violation of KAR 100-55-5(1)

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(Confidential)

b.

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(Confidential)

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h. **(Confidential)**

- i. Licensee shall immediately notify the Board or its designee of any citation, arrest or charge filed against her or of any conviction for traffic or criminal offenses.
- j. Licensee shall at all times keep Board staff informed of all her current practice locations, addresses and telephone numbers. Licensee shall provide the above information in writing to the Board within ten (10) days of any such change.

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IT IS SO ORDERED on this 19th day of August, 2008.

**FOR THE KANSAS STATE
BOARD OF HEALING ARTS:**

Jack Confer
Acting Executive Director

Date

8-19-08

Ronda Copple
Ronda A. Copple, R.T.
Licensee

8/1/08
Date

PREPARED AND APPROVED BY:
Kathleen Selzler Lippert
Kathleen Selzler Lippert #17957
Associate Counsel
Kansas Board of Healing Arts
235 S. Topeka Boulevard
Topeka, Kansas 66603-3068
785-216-0961

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I served a true and correct copy of the Consent Order by United States mail, postage prepaid, on this 1st day of August, 2008, to the following:

Ronda Copple, RT
Licensee
416 E. 12th Street
Concordia, Kansas 66901

And the original was hand-filed with:

Jack Confer
Acting Executive Director
Kansas Board of Healing Arts
235 S. Topeka Boulevard
Topeka, Kansas 66603-3068

And a copy was hand-delivered to:

Consent Order
Ronda A. Copple, RT

Kathleen Selzler Lippert
Associate Counsel
Kansas Board of Healing Arts
235 S Topeka Boulevard
Topeka, Kansas 66603-3068


