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**KANSAS STATE BOARD OF
HEALING ARTS**

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

In the Matter of)
)
MARY C. KARST, R.T.)
Kansas License No.16-00492)
_____)

Docket No. 03-HA-41

CONSENT ORDER

COMES NOW, the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts ("Board") by and through Stacy L. Cook, Litigation Counsel ("Petitioner"), and Mary C. Karst, R.T. ("Licensee"), 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 1216 Parkwood Lane, Newton, Kansas 67114.
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. 16-00492 on August 15, 1987. At all times relevant to the allegations set forth below, Licensee has held a current license to engage in the practice of respiratory therapy in the State of Kansas, having last renewed her license on March 4, 2002.
3. The Board is the sole and exclusive administrative agency in the State of Kansas authorized to regulate the practice of respiratory therapy. K.S.A. 65-5501 *et seq.*
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. Upon approval, these stipulations shall 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 this 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. On or about January 17, 2002, patient #1 was admitted to Wesley Medical Center.

10. On or about January 31, 2002, a tracheostomy placement was performed on patient #1.

11. On or about January 31, 2002, the physician in charge of patient #1's care made a written order in the chart that the tracheostomy ties were not to be disturbed except in an emergency.

12. On or about February 3, 2002, Licensee, who was employed as an R.T. at Wesley Medical Center, placed a new tracheostomy tie on patient #1.

13. The replacement of the tracheostomy tie was not done in an emergency situation.

14. On or about February 7, 2002, Wesley terminated Licensee (**Confidential**) (**Confidential**)

15. On February 21, 2002, Licensee signed a Renewal Application for Respiratory Therapy License ("renewal application").

16. Licensee submitted the renewal application, which was received by the Board on February 25, 2002.

17. Paragraph 6(d) of the renewal application includes the following question: "In the past 12 months, have you had any employment or hospital privileges suspended, restricted, limited or voluntarily surrendered?"

18. Licensee answered "No" to this question.

19. Pursuant to K.S.A. 65-5510(a)(1) and 65-5510(a)(2) and (a)(5), the Board has authority to revoke, suspend, censure or otherwise limit Licensee's registration.

20. According to K.S.A. 77-505 the Board has authority to enter into this Consent Order without the necessity of proceeding to a formal hearing.

21. In lieu of the conclusion of formal proceedings, Licensee, by signature affixed to this Consent Order, hereby voluntarily agrees to the following disciplinary measures placed on her license to engage in the practice of respiratory therapy:

- a. Licensee's license shall be suspended for a period of thirty (30) days. Such suspension will be in effect from December 14, 2002 through and including January 12, 2003.

22. This Consent Order constitutes disciplinary action.

23. Licensee's failure to comply with the provisions of the Consent Order will result in the Board taking disciplinary action as the Board deems appropriate according to the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act.

24. 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. 65-4921 *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.

25. Licensee hereby releases the Board, its individual members (in their official and personal capacities), 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.

26. 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 requiring disclosure of this Consent Order.

27. 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.

28. 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.

29. Licensee, by signature to this document, waives any objection to the participation of the Board members in the consideration of this offer of settlement and agrees not to seek the disqualification or recusal of any Board member in any future proceeding on the basis that the Board member has received investigative information from any source which otherwise may not be admissible or admitted as evidence.

30. Licensee acknowledges that she has read this Consent Order and fully understands the contents.

31. Licensee acknowledges that this Consent Order has been entered into freely and voluntarily.

32. All correspondence or communication between Licensee and the Board relating to this Consent Order shall be by certified mail addressed to the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts, Attn: Stacy L. Cook, 235 S. Topeka Blvd., Topeka, Kansas 66603-3068.

33. 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.

34. Upon execution of this Consent Order by affixing a Board authorized signature below, the provisions of this Consent Order shall become an Order. 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.

35. 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:

Licensee's license shall be suspended for a period of thirty (30) days. Such suspension will be in effect from December 14, 2002 through and including January 12, 2003.

IT IS SO ORDERED on this 16th day of December, 2002.


FOR THE KANSAS STATE
BOARD OF HEALING ARTS:


Lawrence T. Buening, Jr.
Executive Director

AGREED TO BY:

Mary C. Karst 10-24-02
Mary C. Karst, R.T. Date

PREPARED AND APPROVED BY:


Stacy L. Cook #16385
Litigation Counsel
Kansas State Board of Healing Arts
235 S. Topeka Boulevard
Topeka, Kansas 66603-3065
(785) 296-7413


CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Stacy L. Cook, do hereby certify that I served a true and correct copy of the **CONSENT ORDER** by United States mail, postage prepaid, on this 14th day of December 2002 to the following:

Mary C. Karst, R.T.
1216 Parkwood Lane
Newton, Kansas 67114

and the original was hand-delivered to:

Lawrence T. Buening, Jr.
Executive Director
Kansas State Board of Healing Arts
235 S. Topeka Boulevard
Topeka, Kansas 66603-3068



Stacy L. Cook