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**NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF REINSTATEMENT :
OF THE LICENSE OF :
: Administrative Action
: **PETER DANKE, P.A.** :
: **ORDER OF LIMITED**
: **LICENSURE**
: TO PRACTICE AS A PHYSICIANS' :
: ASSISTANT IN THE STATE OF :
: NEW JERSEY :
:

This matter was originally opened to the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners ("Board") by a December 6, 2000 letter from Louis E. Baxter, M.D., F.A.S.A.M., the Executive Medical Director of the Physicians' Health Program of the State of New Jersey ("PHP"). Dr. Baxter notified the Board that respondent, Peter Danke, a Physicians' Assistant, who had been a participant in the PHP, had relapsed in his use of mood altering chemicals. Dr. Baxter related that Dr. Belsky, Vice President for Medical Affairs

at Newark Beth Israel Hospital, reported a November 17, 2000 incident whereby a syringe of Fentanyl was reported missing from the medication cart. Mr. Danke then resigned his position at Newark Beth Israel and voluntarily surrendered his New Jersey Physicians' Assistant license by public order on January 21, 2001, and agreed, among other things, to continue in the PHP program. One of the requirements for reinstatement of said license was that respondent appear before a Committee of the Board to discuss his readiness and competence to reenter practice as a Physicians' Assistant.

On August 22, 2001, respondent appeared and testified before a Committee of the Board, accompanied by Edward Redding of the PHP. Mr. Danke testified that he had begun using cocaine in college and had been using it for approximately two and one-half months and had also developed a dependency on Diprovan. Mr. Danke stated that his dependency had been of a relatively short period of time, and he was treated as an in-patient at Marworth in 1999 and that had been followed with an intensive outpatient program. According to Mr. Danke, once his rehabilitation programs were finished, he obtained employment at Newark Beth Israel Hospital as a Physicians' Assistant. In December 2000, the PHP was notified by this hospital administration that a syringe of Fentanyl had been reported missing, and after Mr. Danke was administered a urine test at the hospital, he resigned his position. Mr. Danke admitted that he had

relapsed into a drug dependency. After that incident, Mr. Danke became involved with "First Steps to Recovery," an outpatient program in New York. According to Mr. Reading, a status report from the Clinical Director of this program stated on June 4, 2001, that Mr. Danke "has great insight into his problems...and is ready now for license restoration." Mr. Danke testified that he now has support groups to help him and does not feel alone in his fight to overcome his dependencies. Mr. Reading testified that Mr. Danke's drug usage was short term for both times, and therefore, should be easier to overcome.

For sufficient cause shown;

IT IS THEREFORE on this 16th day of November , 2001,

ORDERED that:

1. The license of Peter Danke, P.A., to practice as a Physicians' Assistant in the State of New Jersey, shall be reinstated subject to the restrictions set forth below.
2. Mr. Danke shall maintain absolute abstinence from all psychoactive substances unless such substances are prescribed by a treating physician for a documented medical condition, with notification to the Medical Director of the PHP.
3. Mr. Danke shall continue with random, twice-weekly urine monitoring for the first six months of his return to practice as a Physicians' Assistant, and then on a random, weekly basis for the next year.

4. Mr. Danke shall attend face-to-face visits with a representative of the PHP.

5. Mr. Danke shall continue his involvement in the First Steps to Recovery Program in New York or an equivalent program in New Jersey as approved by the Executive Medical Director of the PHP.

6. Mr. Danke shall continue his attendance at the support group of Alcohol Anonymous/Narcotics Anonymous for a minimum of three meetings per week.

7. Mr. Danke shall cause quarterly reports be sent to the Board by the PHP outlining Mr. Danke's participation in the PHP and compliance with the mandates of the Board.

8. Mr. Danke shall obtain the continued agreement of the PHP to immediately notify the Board of any evidence of his non-compliance with the treatment plan or of a relapse.

9. Mr. Danke shall comply with all terms and conditions of the within Order, with all statutes and regulations concerning the practice of medicine and surgery, and with the general laws of the State of New Jersey. ~~If Mr. Danke fails to strictly comply with any of the aforesaid~~
terms the Board may, in addition to any other proceeding authorized by law, automatically revoke respondent's license to practice as a

Physicians' Assistant in this State.

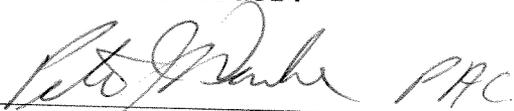
BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS



By

William V. Harrer, M.D., B.L.D.
President

I have read and understand the
within consent Order and agree
to be bound by its terms. Consent
is hereby given to the board to
enter this Order.



Peter Danke, P.A.



Louis Baxter, M.D.
Physicians' Health Program