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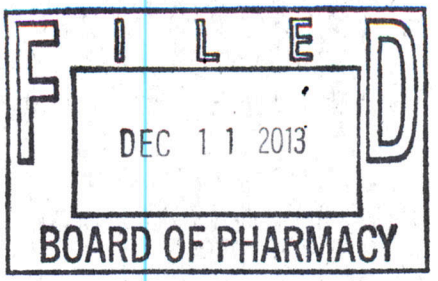

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF	:	Administrative Action
KAVITHA PAREDDY, R.Ph. License No. 28RI02479300	:	**CONSENT ORDER OF REINSTATEMENT**
FOR REINSTATEMENT OF LICENSURE TO PRACTICE PHARMACY IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Pharmacy ("The Board") upon receipt of Respondent Kavitha Pareddy's's application for reinstatement of her license to practice pharmacy in the State of New Jersey. Respondent had entered into an Interim Consent Order Granting Surrender of Licensure with the Board on February 22, 2012, whereby she voluntarily surrendered her pharmacy license after having been arrested on November 17, 2010 and charged with two counts of Distribution of a prescription legend drug in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10.5A(4) and one count of Conspiracy to Distribute a prescription legend drug in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:5-2A(1) (these charges were later dropped) and one count of Uttering a forged instrument in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C: 21-1A(3) (for which

she was granted Pre Trial Intervention). Pursuant to the Consent Order, Respondent's license was surrendered and prior to applying for restoration of her license, Respondent was required to appear before the Board to demonstrate her fitness and competence to practice pharmacy, demonstrate rehabilitation, provide the Board with a full account of her conduct during the intervening period of time, provide documentation of successful completion of all continuing education credits, and successful completion of the PRoBe Ethics course. She was also required to provide documentation regarding the disposition of the criminal matter.

On September 18, 2013, Respondent appeared with counsel and testified before a committee of the Board in support of her application for reinstatement of her license to practice pharmacy in New Jersey. Respondent provided documentation attesting to her successful participation in the Pretrial Intervention (PTI) Program, completion of the PRoBE program, successful completion of all required continuing education courses, and a Final Order of Expungement of her criminal record issued on February 19, 2013.

Respondent then discussed the circumstances surrounding her arrest. She explained that in 2010, while working on a per diem basis at Mabel's Pharmacy in Elizabeth, a customer presented to the pharmacy requesting the price for a specific injection, of which she showed a sample. At the time, the pharmacy technician was Angela Sierra, who translated for the customer, and requested that the medication be ordered. According to Respondent, the customer stated she would return with the prescription. At that point, Respondent placed an order in the system for the injectable medication. Subsequently, the medication was distributed by the same pharmacy technician without Respondent's knowledge or approval. She states that the technician then ordered the prescription a second time, and distributed the medication, again without Respondent's knowledge or approval. On November 17,

2010, Respondent was called to Mabel's Pharmacy, where Narcotic Bureau investigators were waiting to speak with her regarding the medication illegally dispensed. She was then arrested and charged with two counts of Distribution of a Prescription legend drug in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10.5A(4). That night, Respondent stated she read online regarding the sentencing associated with the charges, at which point she became terrified of being separated from her children and placed in prison. The next day, with the urging of the pharmacy technician, Respondent entered into a conspiracy to write a fraudulent prescription from a prescription blank which was found in the pharmacy. Respondent reiterated that her motivation stemmed from fear of imprisonment for ten years. She stated that she was pressured by her pharmacy technician into creating the fraudulent prescription to cover up the technician's illegal distribution of the medication. Respondent subsequently presented the fraudulent prescription to her attorney as evidence. It was only at a much later date, when the Prosecutor called, that Respondent had the courage to tell her attorney that the prescription was fraudulent. Finally, Respondent admitted that she had made a mistake in writing the fraudulent prescription, and acknowledged that she must be more honest and trustworthy if she is afforded the right to practice as a healthcare professional in the future.

Since the entry of the Consent Order on February 22, 2011, Respondent has not worked, and has been caring for her children. She has complied with all requirements for continuing education and successfully completed the PRoBe course. She states that she learned a lot from this experience about her responsibility to act ethically in the work environment. Respondent says she now understands the seriousness of her conduct, and is determined not to stray into unethical conduct going forward. Respondent discussed her plans to work again, and expressed an interest in working as a pharmacist in a non-dispensing role. She stated she previously had worked as a Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PMB), and has contacts at Merck and Medco.

Respondent, being desirous of resolving this matter without the necessity of further formal proceedings, and agreeing to waive any right to same, and the Board having determined that this Order is sufficiently protective of the public health, safety and welfare, and all parties agreeing to the terms of this Order;

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 11th day of December, 2013, ORDERED THAT:

1. Respondent's license shall be reinstated following her provision to the Executive Director of the Board of the following which shall all be to the satisfaction of the Board:

   a. Proof of successful completion of all application requirements including a criminal history background check, and payment of all reinstatement fees;

   b. Documentation of completion of continuing education credits required by N.J.A.C. 13:39-3A.1 to 13:39-3A.7.

2. After Respondent has complied with all of the above requirements to the satisfaction of the Board, Respondent's license to practice pharmacy shall be reinstated and placed on probation for a minimum of two (2) years from the date of reinstatement.

3. During the period of probation, a copy of this Order shall be provided to all respondent's employers where a pharmacy license is required for employment or where the Respondent has access to medication, prescriptions or patient profiles. Prior to Respondent beginning employment, Respondent shall ensure that each employer notifies the Board in writing that he or she has received this Order and agrees to report to the Board immediately if Respondent diverts drugs, or if there is indication Respondent may have diverted medication. Respondent shall inform the Board in writing of any employment changes within 72 hours, including periods of unemployment, and shall also provide a detailed description of her job, role and responsibilities.

4. During the period of probation, Respondent shall not act as a preceptor or pharmacist-in-charge (RPIC) at any pharmacy, and shall not own or have an ownership interest in any pharmacy.

5. Failure to comply with any of the terms of this Consent Order may result in further disciplinary action.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY

By: Thomas F.X. Bender, Jr., RPh
Thomas F.X. Bender, R.Ph.,
President

I have read the within Order, and understand it. I agree to be bound by its terms and hereby consent to it being entered by the New Jersey Board of Pharmacy.

Kavitha Pareddy 12/3/13
Kavitha Pareddy, R.Ph.

Consent as to form and entry:

Pamela Mandel
Pamela Mandel, Esq.
Attorney for Respondent