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**BEFORE THE ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF
RESPIRATORY CARE EXAMINERS**

In the Matter of:) **CASE NO. C003865-18-000482**
)
CATHERINE BLATCHFORD, RCP) **CONSENT AGREEMENT AND**
Holder of License No. **000482**) **NON-DISCIPLINARY ORDER**
)
For the Practice of Respiratory Care)
In the State of Arizona)
_____)

CONSENT AGREEMENT

RECITALS

In the interest of a prompt and judicious settlement of the above-captioned matter before the Arizona State Board of Respiratory Care Examiners ("Board"), and in the interest of protecting the people of the State of Arizona, consistent with the statutory requirements and responsibilities of the Board pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3501, *et seq.* and A.R.S. § 41-1092.07 (F)(5), Catherine Blatchford, RCP ("Respondent"), holder of license number 000482 to practice respiratory care in the State of Arizona, and the Board enter into the following Consent Agreement for Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Nondisciplinary Order for Continuing Education and Civil Penalty ("Consent Agreement") as the final disposition of this matter.

1. Respondent has the right to consult with an attorney prior to entering into this Consent Agreement. Respondent has read and understands this Consent Agreement as set forth herein, and has had the opportunity to discuss this Consent Agreement with an attorney or has waived the opportunity. Respondent voluntarily enters into this Consent Agreement for the purpose of avoiding the expense and uncertainty of an administrative hearing.

2. Respondent understands that she has a right to a public administrative hearing concerning each and every allegation set forth in the above-captioned matter, at which time Respondent could present evidence and cross-examine witnesses. By entering into this Consent Agreement, Respondent freely and voluntarily relinquishes all rights to such an administrative hearing, as well as all rights of rehearing, review, reconsideration, appeal, judicial review, or any other administrative, and/or judicial action concerning the matters set forth herein.

1 Respondent affirmatively agrees that this Consent Agreement shall be irrevocable and any
2 modifications to this original document are ineffective and void unless mutually approved by
3 the parties in writing.

4 3. Respondent agrees that the Board may adopt this Consent Agreement or any part
5 of this agreement under A.R.S. §§ 32-3552 and 32-3553. Respondent understands that the
6 Board may consider this Consent Agreement or any part of it in any future disciplinary action
7 against her.

8 4. Respondent understands that this Consent Agreement does not constitute a
9 dismissal or resolution of other matters currently pending before the Board, *if any*, and does not
10 constitute any waiver, express or implied, of the Board's statutory authority or jurisdiction
11 regarding any other pending or future investigation, action, or proceeding.

12 5. All admissions Respondent makes in this Consent Agreement are made solely
13 for the final disposition of case numbers C003865-18-000482, and any related administrative
14 proceedings or civil litigation involving the Board and Respondent. Respondent further
15 understands that acceptance of the Consent Agreement does not preclude any other agency,
16 subdivision, or officer of this state from instituting other civil or criminal proceedings with
17 respect to the conduct that is the subject of this Consent Agreement.

18 6. Respondent acknowledges that it is the Board's position that if this matter
19 proceeded to formal hearing, the Board could likely establish sufficient evidence to support a
20 conclusion that certain of Respondent's conduct constituted unprofessional conduct under
21 A.R.S. § 32-3552 and A.A.C. R4-45-214. Therefore, Respondent has agreed to enter into this
22 Consent Agreement as an economical and practical means of resolving the issues associated
23 with the Board's investigation.

24 7. The Consent Agreement shall be subject to approval by the Board and shall be
25 effective only when signed by the Executive Director and accepted by the Board. In the event
26 that the Board does not approve this Consent Agreement, it is withdrawn and shall be of no

1 evidentiary value and shall not be relied upon nor introduced in any action by any party. The
2 parties agree that if the Board rejects this Consent Agreement and this case proceeds to hearing,
3 Respondent shall assert no claim that the Board was prejudiced by its review and discussion of
4 this document or any other records relating thereto.

5 8. Respondent understands that this Consent Agreement is a public record that may
6 be publicly disseminated as a formal action of the Board.

7 9. Respondent understands that any violation of this Consent Agreement could be
8 grounds for further disciplinary action by the Board pursuant to A.A.C. R4-45-214(3).

9
10 DATED: 4-24-18

SIGNED: Catherine Blatchford

RCP Catherine Blatchford, Respondent *Koff*

11
12
13 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

14 1. The Arizona State Board of Respiratory Care Examiners is the duly constituted
15 agency for licensing and regulating of the practice of respiratory care in the State of Arizona and
16 has jurisdiction over Respondent as a licensee of the Board and the subject matter pursuant to
17 A.R.S. § 32-3501, *et seq.*

18 2. Catherine Blatchford, RCP, is the holder of License Number 000482, which
19 enables her to practice respiratory care in the State of Arizona.

20 3. Respondent was selected for a random Continuing Education Audit pursuant to
21 A.A.C. R4-45-208. Respondent did not comply with the Board's request for the random
22 Continuing Education Audit on or before the date specified in the audit notice and submitted
23 only 19.5 hours of approved Continuing Education Units to the Board. Respondent was unable to
24 produce documentation showing she had obtained twenty hours of approved continuing
25 education as required by law and has failed to demonstrate compliance with the continuing
26 education requirement mandated for Respondent's last renewal period.

1 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

2 1. The conduct described in the Findings of Fact constitute grounds for disciplinary
3 action pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 32-3552(A)(1) and (3) and violate the provisions of A.R.S. § 32-
4 3501(9)(i) which states, "Any conduct or practice which is contrary to recognized standards of
5 ethics of the respiratory therapy profession or any conduct or practice which does or might
6 constitute a danger to the health, welfare or safety of the patient or the public."

7 2. The conduct described in the Findings of Fact constitute grounds for disciplinary
8 action pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 32-3552(A)(1) and (3) and violate the provisions of A.R.S. § 32-
9 3501(9)(k), which states, "Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in
10 or abetting the violation of or conspiring to violate a provision of this chapter."

11 3. The conduct described in the Findings of Fact constitute grounds for disciplinary
12 action pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 32-3552(A)(1) and (3) and violate the provisions of A.A.C. R4-45-
13 214 (2) which states, "Procuring or attempting to procure by fraud or misrepresentation a license
14 or renewal of a license to practice respiratory care."

15 ORDER

16 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT** Catherine Blatchford, RCP, holder of License No.
17 000482 shall be subject to the following:

18 1. Respondent shall pay a non-disciplinary **CIVIL PENALTY** for \$25.00 per
19 missing continuing education hour in the total amount of **TWELVE AND 50/100 DOLLARS**
20 **(\$12.50)** for failing to complete twenty continuing education hours within the required renewal
21 period. This Civil Penalty shall be paid to the Arizona State Board of Respiratory Care
22 Examiners by no later than **NINETY (90) DAYS** from the effective date of this Order. If
23 Respondent is experiencing a financial hardship that requires payment of the Civil Penalty in
24 increments or an extension of the Civil Penalty due date, please contact the Board offices at
25 (602) 542-5995 to make alternative arrangements **NO LATER THAN THIRTY (30) DAYS** from
26 the effective date of this Order.

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2 2. Respondent shall submit ONE-HALF (0.5) hours of approved continuing
3 education no later than NINETY (90) days from the effective date of this Order. All costs
4 associated with complying with the terms of this Order are to be paid by Respondent. These
5 continuing education units shall be in addition to the normal continuing education units required
6 for the current license renewal period



ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF RESPIRATORY CARE



Jack Confer, Executive Director

DATED THIS 25th DAY OF APRIL 2018.

13 Original Consent Agreement for Findings
14 of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Non-
15 Disciplinary Order filed this
25th day of APRIL 2018 with the:

16 Arizona Board of Respiratory Examiners
17 1740 West Adams Street, suite 3406
18 Phoenix, AZ 85007

19 Copy of the foregoing sent by electronic
20 and regular mail this 25th day
21 of APRIL 2018 to:

22 Catherine Blatchford, RCP
23 Address on Record
24
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