BEFORE THE ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF RESPIRATORY CARE EXAMINERS

In the Matter of:) CASE NO. 2019-RCE-0183
PAULA FLECK, RCP Holder of License No. 009037) CONSENT AGREEMENT AND 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), Paula Fleck, RCP ("Respondent"), holder of license number 009037 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 Non-Disciplinary 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 he/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. Respondent affirmatively agrees that this Consent Agreement shall be irrevocable and any modifications to this original document are ineffective and void unless mutually approved by the parties in writing.

- 3. Respondent agrees that the Board may adopt this Consent Agreement or any part of this agreement under A.R.S. §§ 32-3552 and 32-3553. Respondent understands that the Board may consider this Consent Agreement or any part of it in any future disciplinary action against him.
- 4. Respondent understands that this Consent Agreement does not constitute a dismissal or resolution of other matters currently pending before the Board, *if any*, and does not constitute any waiver, express or implied, of the Board's statutory authority or jurisdiction regarding any other pending or future investigation, action, or proceeding.
- 5. All admissions Respondent makes in this Consent Agreement are made solely for the final disposition of case numbers 2019-RCE-0183, and any related administrative proceedings or civil litigation involving the Board and Respondent. Respondent further understands that acceptance of the Consent Agreement does not preclude any other agency, subdivision, or officer of this state from instituting other civil or criminal proceedings with respect to the conduct that is the subject of this Consent Agreement.
- 6. Respondent acknowledges that it is the Board's position that if this matter proceeded to formal hearing, the Board could likely establish sufficient evidence to support a conclusion that certain of Respondent's conduct constituted unprofessional conduct under A.R.S. § 32-3552 and A.A.C. R4-45-214. Therefore, Respondent has agreed to enter into this Consent Agreement as an economical and practical means of resolving the issues associated with the Board's investigation.
 - 7. The Consent Agreement shall be subject to approval by the Board and shall be

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effective only when signed by the Executive Director and accepted by the Board. In the event that the Board does not approve this Consent Agreement, it is withdrawn and shall be of no evidentiary value and shall not be relied upon nor introduced in any action by any party. The parties agree that if the Board rejects this Consent Agreement and this case proceeds to hearing, Respondent shall assert no claim that the Board was prejudiced by its review and discussion of this document or any other records relating thereto.

- 8. Respondent understands that this Consent Agreement is a public record that may be publicly disseminated as a formal action of the Board.
- 9. Respondent understands that any violation of this Consent Agreement could be grounds for further disciplinary action by the Board pursuant to A.A.C. R4-45-214(3).

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DATED: 0/13(2001 SIGNED:

RCP Paula Fleck, Respondent

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. The Arizona State Board of Respiratory Care Examiners is the duly constituted agency for licensing and regulating of the practice of respiratory care in the State of Arizona and has jurisdiction over Respondent as a licensee of the Board and the subject matter pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3501, et seq.
- 2. Paula Fleck, RCP, is the holder of License Number 009037, which enables him/her to practice respiratory care in the State of Arizona.
- 3. Respondent was selected for a Continuing Education Audit pursuant to A.A.C. R4-45-208. Respondent did not comply with the Board's mandate to complete and/or provide proof that they had completed 20 hours of approved Continuing Education Units to within the prior their prior renewal time frame. Respondent was unable to produce documentation showing they had obtained TWENTY (20) hour(s) of approved continuing education as required by law.

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Respondent has failed to demonstrate compliance with the continuing education requirement mandated for Respondent's last renewal period.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. The conduct described in the Findings of Fact constitute grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 32-3552(A)(1) and (3) and violate the provisions of A.R.S. § 32-3501(9)(i) which states, "Any conduct or practice which is contrary to recognized standards of ethics of the respiratory therapy profession or any conduct or practice which does or might constitute a danger to the health, welfare or safety of the patient or the public."
- 2. The conduct described in the Findings of Fact constitute grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 32-3552(A)(1) and (3) and violate the provisions of A.R.S. § 32-3501(9)(k), which states, "Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of or conspiring to violate a provision of this chapter."
- 3. The conduct described in the Findings of Fact constitute grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 32-3552(A)(1) and (3) and violate the provisions of A.A.C. R4-45-214 (2) which states, "Procuring or attempting to procure by fraud or misrepresentation a license or renewal of a license to practice respiratory care."

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT Paula Fleck, RCP, holder of License No. 009037 shall be subject to the following:

1. Respondent shall pay a non-disciplinary CIVIL PENALTY of \$25.00 per missing continuing education hour in the total amount of FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 **DOLLARS** (\$500) for failing to complete 20 continuing education hours within the required renewal period. This Civil Penalty shall be paid to the Arizona State Board of Respiratory Care Examiners by no later than NINETY (90) DAYS from the effective date of this Order. If Respondent is experiencing a financial hardship that requires payment of the Civil Penalty in increments or an extension of the Civil Penalty due date, please contact the Board offices at

(602) 542-5995 to make alternative arrangements NO LATER THAN THIRTY (30) DAYS from the effective date of this Order.

2. Respondent shall submit TWENTY (20) HOURS of approved continuing education no later than NINETY (90) DAYS from the effective date of this Order. All costs associated with complying with the terms of this Order are to be paid by Respondent. These continuing education units shall be in addition to the normal continuing education units required for the current license renewal period



ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF RESPIRATORY CARE

Jack Confer, Executive Director

DATED THIS 19th_DAY OF August, 2019.

Original Consent Agreement for Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Non-Disciplinary Order filed this

19th day of August, 2019 with the:

Arizona Board of Respiratory Examiners 1740 West Adams Street, Suite 3406 Phoenix, AZ 85007

Copy of the foregoing sent by electronic and regular mail this 19th day of August, 2019 to:

Paula Fleck, RCP Address on Record