BEFORE THE ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF RESPIRATORY CARE EXAMINERS

In the Matter of:) CASE NO. 2019-RCE-0144
SEEMA SHARMA, RCP	CONSENT AGREEMENT AND
HOLDER OF LICENSE NO. 006970	NON-DISCIPLINARYORDER
:	VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OF
THE PRACTICE OF) LICENSE
RESPIRATORY THERAPY 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 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), Seema Sharma, RCP ("Respondent"), holder of license number 006970 to practice respiratory care in the State of Arizona, and the Board enter into the following Consent Agreement, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order for Voluntary Surrender of License ("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

- 3. Respondent agrees that the Board may adopt this Consent Agreement or any part of this agreement, pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3553. Respondent understands that the Board may consider this Consent Agreement or any part of it in any future disciplinary action against him or in any future decision regarding reinstatement of his license.
- 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 Boards 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 Number 2018-RCE-0144 regarding allegations of unprofessional conduct against Respondent, 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. The Consent Agreement shall be subject to approval by the Board and shall be 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.

- Respondent has been licensed since 2005. Respondent's license to practice
- On May 6, 2019 Respondent was selected for a random Continuing Education 4. Audit pursuant to A.A.C. R4-45-208.

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- Respondent responded to the audit and submitted a total of 22 hours of continuing 5. education; however, she failed the audit because the continuing education she submitted did not include five (5) live or two (2) ethics hours.
- On June 27, 2019, the Board offered a Non-Disciplinary Consent Agreement for 5 approved Continuing Education Units and a Civil Penalty in the amount of \$125; however, Respondent contacted the Board's Executive Director stated that she wished to surrender her license to practice the profession of respiratory care in lieu of accepting the terms outlined in the Board's proposed consent agreement.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The conduct described in the Findings of Fact may constitute grounds for 1. disciplinary action pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 32-3552(A)(1) and (3) and violate the provisions of A.R.S. § 32-3501(10)(i) which states, "Any conduct or practice which is contrary to recognized

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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."

- 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.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."
- The conduct described in the Findings of Fact constitute grounds for disciplinary 4. action pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 32-3552(A)(1) and (3) and violate the provisions of A.A.C. R4-45-214 (5), which states, "Falsely claiming attendance at an approved continuing education to meeting license renewal requirements."
- The conduct described in the Findings of Fact constitute grounds for disciplinary 5. action pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 32-3552(A)(1) and (3) and violate the provisions of A.A.C. R4-45-214 (6), which states, "Endangering a patient's or the public's physical or emotional health or safety or engaging in conduct or practice that may reasonably be expected to do so."

DATED: 630/19

SIGNED:

Seema Sharma, Respondent

ORDER

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, IT IS 1. HEREBY ORDERED THAT License Number 006970 issued to Seema Sharma RCP shall be VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED upon the signing of this Order by the Executive Director of the Board.



ARIZONA BOARD OF RESPIRATORY CARE EXAMINERS

By:

Jack Confer, Executive Director

1	Original Consent Agreement for Non-Disciplinary Voluntary Surrender of License filed this
2	day of July 2019 with the:
3	Arizona Board of Respiratory Examiners
4	1740 West Adams Street, Suite 3406 Phoenix, Arizona 85007
5	Copy of the foregoing send by Electronic,
6	and Regular mail this 320 day of July 2019 to:
7	Seema Sharma
8	Address of Record
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