

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

3 In the Matter of: ) **CASE NO. 2019-RCE-0111**  
4 )  
5 **ERNESTO ARTEAGA, RCP** ) **CONSENT AGREEMENT AND**  
6 Holder of License No. **022589** ) **NON-DISCIPLINARY ORDER**  
7 )  
8 For the Practice of Respiratory Care )  
9 In the State of Arizona )  
10 \_\_\_\_\_ )

11 **CONSENT AGREEMENT**

12 **RECITALS**

13 In the interest of a prompt and judicious settlement of the above-captioned matter before  
14 the Arizona State Board of Respiratory Care Examiners (“Board”), and in the interest of  
15 protecting the people of the State of Arizona, consistent with the statutory requirements and  
16 responsibilities of the Board pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-3501, *et seq.* and A.R.S. § 41-1092.07  
17 (F)(5), Ernesto Arteaga, RCP (“Respondent”), holder of license number 022589 to practice  
18 respiratory care in the State of Arizona, and the Board enter into the following Consent  
19 Agreement for Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Non-Disciplinary Order for  
20 Continuing Education and Civil Penalty (“Consent Agreement”) as the final disposition of this  
21 matter.

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

1. 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

1 hearing, as well as all rights of rehearing, review, reconsideration, appeal, judicial review, or  
2 any other administrative, and/or judicial action concerning the matters set forth herein.  
3 Respondent affirmatively agrees that this Consent Agreement shall be irrevocable and any  
4 modifications to this original document are ineffective and void unless mutually approved by  
5 the parties in writing.

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

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

14 5. All admissions Respondent makes in this Consent Agreement are made solely  
15 for the final disposition of case numbers 2019-RCE-0111, and any related administrative  
16 proceedings or civil litigation involving the Board and Respondent. Respondent further  
17 understands that acceptance of the Consent Agreement does not preclude any other agency,  
18 subdivision, or officer of this state from instituting other civil or criminal proceedings with  
19 respect to the conduct that is the subject of this Consent Agreement.

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

26 7. The Consent Agreement shall be subject to approval by the Board and shall be

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

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

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

11  
12 DATED: 8/20/19 SIGNED:   
13 RCP Ernesto Arteaga, Respondent  
14

15 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

20 2. Ernesto Arteaga, RCP, is the holder of License Number 022589, which enables  
21 him/her to practice respiratory care in the State of Arizona.

22 3. Respondent was selected for a Continuing Education Audit pursuant to A.A.C.  
23 R4-45-208. Respondent did not comply with the Board's request for the random Continuing  
24 Education Audit on or before the date specified in the audit notice and submitted five (5) hours  
25 of approved Continuing Education Units to the Board. Respondent was unable to  
26 produce documentation showing they had obtained twenty (20) hours of approved continuing

1 education as required by law and has failed to demonstrate compliance with the  
2 continuing education requirement mandated for Respondent's last renewal period.

3 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

4 1. 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.R.S. § 32-  
6 3501(9)(i) which states, "Any conduct or practice which is contrary to recognized standards of  
7 ethics of the respiratory therapy profession or any conduct or practice which does or might  
8 constitute a danger to the health, welfare or safety of the patient or the public."

9 2. The conduct described in the Findings of Fact constitute grounds for disciplinary  
10 action pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 32-3552(A)(1) and (3) and violate the provisions of A.R.S. § 32-  
11 3501(9)(k), which states, "Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in  
12 or abetting the violation of or conspiring to violate a provision of this chapter."

13 3. The conduct described in the Findings of Fact constitute grounds for disciplinary  
14 action pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 32-3552(A)(1) and (3) and violate the provisions of A.A.C. R4-45-  
15 214 (2) which states, "Procuring or attempting to procure by fraud or misrepresentation a license  
16 or renewal of a license to practice respiratory care."

17 **ORDER**

18 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT** Ernesto Arteaga, RCP, holder of License No.  
19 022589 shall be subject to the following:

20 1. Respondent shall pay a non-disciplinary **CIVIL PENALTY** of \$10.00 per  
21 missing continuing education hour in the total amount of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY AND**  
22 **00/100 DOLLARS (\$150.00)** for failing to complete 15 continuing education hours within the  
23 required renewal period. This Civil Penalty shall be paid to the Arizona State Board of  
24 Respiratory Care Examiners by no later than **NINETY (90) DAYS** from the effective date  
25 of this Order. If Respondent is experiencing a financial hardship that requires payment of the  
26 Civil Penalty in increments or an extension of the Civil Penalty due date, please contact the  
Board offices at


1 (602) 542-5995 to make alternative arrangements NO LATER THAN THIRTY (30) DAYS from  
2 the effective date of this Order.

3 2. Respondent shall submit **15 HOURS** of approved continuing education no  
4 later than **NINETY (90) DAYS** from the effective date of this Order. All costs associated  
5 with complying with the terms of this Order are to be paid by Respondent. These continuing  
6 education units shall be in addition to the normal continuing education units required for the  
7 current license renewal period



8  
9  
10 SEAL

ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF RESPIRATORY CARE

11   
12 \_\_\_\_\_  
13 Jack Confer, Executive Director

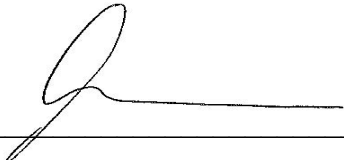
DATED THIS 20th DAY OF August, 2019.

14 Original Consent Agreement for Findings  
15 of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Non-  
16 Disciplinary Order filed this  
20th day of August, 2019 with the:

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

20 Copy of the foregoing sent by electronic  
21 and regular mail this 20th day  
22 of August, 2019 to:

23 Ernesto Arteaga, RCP  
24 Address on Record

25   
26 \_\_\_\_\_