

**State of New Hampshire
Board of Medicine
Concord, New Hampshire 03301**

In the Matter of:
Kevin Costin, P.A.
No.: 0012
(Misconduct Allegations)

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

In order to avoid the delay and expense of further proceedings and to promote the best interests of the public and the practice of medicine, the New Hampshire Board of Medicine ("Board") and Kevin Costin, P.A. ("Mr. Costin" or "Respondent"), a physician assistant licensed by the Board, do hereby stipulate and agree to resolve certain allegations of professional misconduct now pending before the Board according to the following terms and conditions:

1. Pursuant to RSA 328-D:6; RSA 329:17, I; RSA 329:18 and RSA 329:18-a, and Medical Administrative Rule ("Med") 206 and 210, the Board has jurisdiction to investigate and adjudicate allegations of professional misconduct committed by physician assistants. Pursuant to RSA 329:18-a, III, the Board may, at any time, dispose of such allegations by settlement and without commencing a disciplinary hearing.
2. The Board first granted Respondent a license to practice medicine in the State of New Hampshire on June 18, 1974. Respondent holds license number 0012. Respondent most recently practiced as a physician assistant with Family Physicians of Manchester (New Hampshire).

3. On or about February 8, 2010, the Board learned that Respondent was terminated from employment with Family Physicians of Manchester for having issued six prescriptions for narcotics to an individual for whom he was not a current treating provider, without the knowledge or authorization of his supervising physician or the individual's own physician. The individual was a patient of the practice.
4. In response to this, the Board conducted an investigation and obtained information from various sources pertaining to Respondent's alleged misconduct.
5. Respondent stipulates that if a disciplinary hearing were to take place, Hearing Counsel would prove that Respondent engaged in professional misconduct, in violation of RSA 328-D:6, V and XI; RSA 329:17, VI (1); Med 609.01 (a) (2) and (8) and Med 612.01, by the following facts:
 - A. Respondent practiced at Family Physicians of Manchester where D.B. was a patient of prior to 1999. Although D.B. and the Respondent knew each other through the practice, they did not have a provider-patient relationship. After D.B. left the practice, she and Respondent became involved in a romantic relationship which ended sometime in 2008 or 2009.
 - B. In 2009, D.B. returned to Family Physicians for medical care, but again, was not a patient of Respondent.
 - C. D.B. contacted Respondent in the summer of 2009 and requested that he write her prescriptions for narcotic medications.
 - D. Respondent wrote six prescriptions for DB, without establishing a valid physician-patient relationship with her, without the authorization of D.B.'s

treating physician or Respondent's own responsible supervising physician, and without noting five of those prescriptions in D.B.'s medical chart.

6. The Board finds that Respondent committed the acts as described above and concludes that, by engaging in such conduct, Respondent violated RSA 328-D:6, V and XI; RSA 329:17, VI (1); Med 609.01 (a) (2) and (8) and Med 612.01.
7. Respondent acknowledges that this conduct constitutes grounds for the Board to impose disciplinary sanctions against Respondent's license to practice as a physician in the State of New Hampshire.
8. Respondent consents to the Board imposing the following discipline, pursuant to RSA 328-D:7:
 - A. Respondent is REPRIMANDED.
 - B. Respondent is required to meaningfully participate in a program of continuing medical education in the areas of professional boundaries and documentation. Respondent shall complete fifteen (15) hours in the area of professional boundaries. These hours shall be in addition to the hours required by the Board for renewal of licensure and shall be completed within one (1) year from the effective date of this *Settlement Agreement*. Within fifteen (15) days of completing these hours, Respondent shall notify the Board and provide written proof of completion.
 - C. Respondent is assessed an ADMINISTRATIVE FINE in the amount of \$3,000. \$2,500 of this fine amount shall be suspended for one (1) year, provided that Respondent complies with the terms of this Settlement

Agreement. Respondent shall pay the remaining fine of \$500 in full within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this *Settlement Agreement*, as defined further below, by delivering a money order or bank check, made payable to "Treasurer, State of New Hampshire," to the Board's office at 2 Industrial Park Drive, Suite 8, Concord, New Hampshire.

- D. Within ten (10) days of the effective date of this agreement, as defined further below, Respondent shall furnish a copy of the *Settlement Agreement* to any current employer for whom Respondent performs services as a physician assistant or work which requires a medical degree and/or medical license or directly or indirectly involves patient care, and to any agency or authority which licenses, certifies or credentials physicians, with which Respondent is presently affiliated.
- E. For a continuing period of one (1) year from the effective date of this agreement, Respondent shall furnish a copy of this *Settlement Agreement* to any employer to which Respondent may apply for work as a physician assistant or for work in any capacity which requires a medical degree and/or medical license or directly or indirectly involves patient care, and to any agency or authority that licenses, certifies or credentials physicians, to which Respondent may apply for any such professional privileges or recognition.
9. Respondent's breach of any terms or conditions of this *Settlement Agreement* shall constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to RSA 329:17, VI (d) and RSA 328-D:6, IV, and a separate and sufficient basis for further disciplinary action by the Board.

10. Except as provided herein, this *Settlement Agreement* shall bar the commencement of further disciplinary action by the Board based upon the misconduct described above. However, the Board may consider this misconduct as evidence of a pattern of conduct in the event that similar misconduct is proven against Respondent in the future. Additionally, the Board may consider the fact that discipline was imposed by this Order as a factor in determining appropriate discipline should any further misconduct be proven against Respondent in the future.
11. This *Settlement Agreement* shall become a permanent part of Respondent's file, which is maintained by the Board as a public document.
12. Respondent voluntarily enters into and signs this *Settlement Agreement* and states that no promises or representations have been made to him other than those terms and conditions expressly stated herein.
13. The Board agrees that in return for Respondent executing this *Settlement Agreement*, the Board will not proceed with the formal adjudicatory process based upon the facts described herein.
14. Respondent understands that his action in entering into this *Settlement Agreement* is a final act and not subject to reconsideration or judicial review or appeal.
15. Respondent has had the opportunity to seek and obtain the advice of an attorney of his choosing in connection with his decision to enter into this agreement.
16. Respondent understands that the Board must review and accept the terms of this *Settlement Agreement*. If the Board rejects any portion, the entire *Settlement Agreement* shall be null and void. Respondent specifically waives any claims that any

disclosures made to the Board during its review of this *Settlement Agreement* have prejudiced his right to a fair and impartial hearing in the future if this *Settlement Agreement* is not accepted by the Board.

17. Respondent is not under the influence of any drugs or alcohol at the time he signs this *Settlement Agreement*.
18. Respondent certifies that he has read this document titled *Settlement Agreement*. Respondent understands that he has the right to a formal adjudicatory hearing concerning this matter and that at said hearing he would possess the rights to confront and cross-examine witnesses, to call witnesses, to present evidence, to testify on his own behalf, to contest the allegations, to present oral argument, and to appeal to the courts. Further, Respondent fully understands the nature, qualities and dimensions of these rights. Respondent understands that by signing this *Settlement Agreement*, he waives these rights as they pertain to the misconduct described herein.
19. This *Settlement Agreement* shall take effect as an Order of the Board on the date it is signed by an authorized representative of the Board.

FOR RESPONDENT

Date: 8/26/10

Kevin Costin, P.A.
Respondent

Date: _____

Counsel for Respondent

FOR THE BOARD/*

This proceeding is hereby terminated in accordance with the binding terms and conditions set forth above.

Date: July 8, 2010

Penny Taylor
(Signature)

PENNY TAYLOR
(Print or Type Name)
Authorized Representative of the
New Hampshire Board of Medicine

/* Board members, recused:
Robert Cervenka, M.D.
Mark Sullivan, M.D.
Amy Feitelson, M.D.