BEFORE THE
BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against: KELLY CLAIRE SCHMITT 37043 Sycamore Drive Mentone, CA 92359 Registered Nurse License No. 632617 Respondent.	Case No. 2008-18 OAH No. L2007080951

DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted by the Board of Registered Nursing, Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in this matter.

This Decision shall become effective on February 18, 2008

It is so ORDERED January 18, 2008

LaFrancene W Tate

FOR THE BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General
of the State of California
LINDA K. SCHNEIDER
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
ANTOINETTE B. CINCOTTA, State Bar No. 120482
Deputy Attorney General
California Department of Justice
110 West "A" Street, Suite 1100
San Diego, CA 92101

P.O. Box 85266
San Diego, CA 92186-5266
Telephone: (619) 645-2095
Facsimile: (619) 645-2061

Attorneys for Complainant

BEFORE THE
BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against: KELLY CLAIRE SCHMITT 37043 Sycamore Drive Mentone, CA 92359 Registered Nurse License No. 632617 Respondent.	Case No. 2008-18 OAH No. L2007080951 **STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:

PARTIES

1. Ruth Ann Terry, M.P.H, R.N (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of the Board of Registered Nursing. She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in this matter by Edmund G. Brown Jr., Attorney General of the State of California, by Antoinette B. Cincotta, Deputy Attorney General.

2. Respondent Kelly Claire Schmitt (Respondent) is representing herself in this proceeding and has chosen not to exercise her right to be represented by counsel.

3. On or about February 18, 2004, the Board of Registered Nursing issued Registered Nurse License No. 632617 to Kelly Claire Schmitt (Respondent). The registered

nurse license was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 2008-18 and will expire on December 31, 2007, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. Accusation No. 2008-18 was filed before the Board of Registered Nursing (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on July 24, 2007. Respondent timely filed her Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 2008-18 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

5. Respondent has carefully read, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 2008-18. Respondent has also carefully read, and fully understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.

6. Respondent is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel at her own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her; the right to present evidence and to testify on her own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

8. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in Accusation No. 2008-18.

9. Respondent agrees that her RN is subject to discipline and she agrees to be bound by the Board's imposition of discipline as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

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RESERVATION

10. The admissions made by Respondent herein are only for the purposes of this proceeding, or any other proceedings in which the Board of Registered Nursing or other professional licensing agency is involved, and shall not be admissible in any other criminal or civil proceeding.

CONTINGENCY

11. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Board of Registered Nursing. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board of Registered Nursing may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.

OTHER MATTERS

12. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.

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DISCIPLINARY ORDER

In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Registered Nurse License No. 632617 issued to Respondent Kelly Claire Schmitt (Respondent) is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for three (3) years on the following terms and conditions.

Severability Clause. Each condition of probation contained herein is a separate and distinct condition. If any condition of this Order, or any application thereof, is declared unenforceable in whole, in part, or to any extent, the remainder of this Order, and all other applications thereof, shall not be affected. Each condition of this Order shall separately be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

1. **Actual Suspension of License.** Respondent is suspended from the practice of registered nursing for twelve (12) months beginning the effective date of this Decision. During the suspension period, all probation conditions are in full force and effect except those relating to actual nursing practice. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this probationary time period.

2. **Obey All Laws.** Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws. A full and detailed account of any and all violations of law shall be reported by Respondent to the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours of occurrence. To permit monitoring of compliance with this condition, Respondent shall submit completed fingerprint forms and fingerprint fees within 45 days of the effective date of the decision, unless previously submitted as part of the licensure application process.

Criminal Court Orders: If Respondent is under criminal court orders, including probation or parole, and the order is violated, this shall be deemed a violation of these probation conditions, and may result in the filing of an accusation and/or petition to revoke probation.

3. **Comply with the Board's Probation Program.** Respondent shall fully comply with the conditions of the Probation Program established by the Board and cooperate

with representatives of the Board in its monitoring and investigation of the Respondent's compliance with the Board's Probation Program. Respondent shall inform the Board in writing within no more than 15 days of any address change and shall at all times maintain an active, current license status with the Board, including during any period of suspension.

Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's license shall be fully restored.

4. **Report in Person.** Respondent, during the period of probation, shall appear in person at interviews/meetings as directed by the Board or its designated representatives.

5. **Residency, Practice, or Licensure Outside of State.** Periods of residency or practice as a registered nurse outside of California shall not apply toward a reduction of this probation time period. Respondent's probation is tolled, if and when she resides outside of California. Respondent must provide written notice to the Board within 15 days of any change of residency or practice outside the state, and within 30 days prior to re-establishing residency or returning to practice in this state.

Respondent shall provide a list of all states and territories where she has ever been licensed as a registered nurse, vocational nurse, or practical nurse. Respondent shall further provide information regarding the status of each license and any changes in such license status during the term of probation. Respondent shall inform the Board if she applies for or obtains a new nursing license during the term of probation.

6. **Submit Written Reports.** Respondent, during the period of probation, shall submit or cause to be submitted such written reports/declarations and verification of actions under penalty of perjury, as required by the Board. These reports/declarations shall contain statements relative to Respondent's compliance with all the conditions of the Board's Probation Program. Respondent shall immediately execute all release of information forms as may be required by the Board or its representatives.

Respondent shall provide a copy of this Decision to the nursing regulatory agency in every state and territory in which she has a registered nurse license.

7. **Function as a Registered Nurse.** Respondent, during the period of probation, shall engage in the practice of registered nursing in California for a minimum of 24 hours per week for 6 consecutive months or as determined by the Board.

For purposes of compliance with the section, "engage in the practice of registered nursing" may include, when approved by the Board, volunteer work as a registered nurse, or work in any non-direct patient care position that requires licensure as a registered nurse.

The Board may require that advanced practice nurses engage in advanced practice nursing for a minimum of 24 hours per week for 6 consecutive months or as determined by the Board.

If Respondent has not complied with this condition during the probationary term, and Respondent has presented sufficient documentation of her good faith efforts to comply with this condition, and if no other conditions have been violated, the Board, in its discretion, may grant an extension of Respondent's probation period up to one year without further hearing in order to comply with this condition. During the one year extension, all original conditions of probation shall apply.

8. **Employment Approval and Reporting Requirements.** Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board before commencing or continuing any employment, paid or voluntary, as a registered nurse. Respondent shall cause to be submitted to the Board all performance evaluations and other employment related reports as a registered nurse upon request of the Board.

Respondent shall provide a copy of this Decision to her employer and immediate supervisors prior to commencement of any nursing or other health care related employment.

In addition to the above, Respondent shall notify the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours after she obtains any nursing or other health care related employment. Respondent shall notify the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours after she is terminated or separated, regardless of cause, from any nursing, or other health care related employment with a full explanation of the circumstances surrounding the termination or separation.

9. **Supervision.** Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board regarding Respondent's level of supervision and/or collaboration before commencing or continuing any employment as a registered nurse, or education and training that includes patient care.

Respondent shall practice only under the direct supervision of a registered nurse in good standing (no current discipline) with the Board of Registered Nursing, unless alternative methods of supervision and/or collaboration (e.g., with an advanced practice nurse or physician) are approved.

Respondent's level of supervision and/or collaboration may include, but is not limited to the following:

(a) Maximum - The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration is present in the patient care area or in any other work setting at all times.

(b) Moderate - The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration is in the patient care unit or in any other work setting at least half the hours Respondent works.

(c) Minimum - The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration has person-to-person communication with Respondent at least twice during each shift worked.

(d) Home Health Care - If Respondent is approved to work in the home health care setting, the individual providing supervision and/or collaboration shall have person-to-person communication with Respondent as required by the Board each work day. Respondent shall maintain telephone or other telecommunication contact with the individual providing supervision and/or collaboration as required by the Board during each work day. The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration shall conduct, as required by the Board, periodic, on-site visits to patients' homes visited by Respondent with or without Respondent present.

10. **Employment Limitations.** Respondent shall not work for a nurse's registry, in any private duty position as a registered nurse, a temporary nurse placement agency, a traveling nurse, or for an in-house nursing pool.

Respondent shall not work for a licensed home health agency as a visiting nurse unless the registered nursing supervision and other protections for home visits have been

approved by the Board. Respondent shall not work in any other registered nursing occupation where home visits are required.

Respondent shall not work in any health care setting as a supervisor of registered nurses. The Board may additionally restrict Respondent from supervising licensed vocational nurses and/or unlicensed assistive personnel on a case-by-case basis.

Respondent shall not work as a faculty member in an approved school of nursing or as an instructor in a Board approved continuing education program.

Respondent shall work only on a regularly assigned, identified and predetermined worksite(s) and shall not work in a float capacity.

If Respondent is working or intends to work in excess of 40 hours per week, the Board may request documentation to determine whether there should be restrictions on the hours of work.

11. **Complete a Nursing Course(s).** Respondent, at her own expense, shall enroll and successfully complete a course(s) relevant to the practice of registered nursing no later than six months prior to the end of her probationary term.

Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board before enrolling in the course(s). Respondent shall submit to the Board the original transcripts or certificates of completion for the above required course(s). The Board shall return the original documents to Respondent after photocopying them for its records.

12. **Cost Recovery.** Respondent shall pay to the Board costs associated with its investigation and enforcement pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3 in the amount of $1,321.50. Respondent shall be permitted to pay these costs in a payment plan approved by the Board, with payments to be completed no later than three months prior to the end of the probation term.

If Respondent has not complied with this condition during the probationary term, and Respondent has presented sufficient documentation of her good faith efforts to comply with this condition, and if no other conditions have been violated, the Board, in its discretion, may grant an extension of Respondent's probation period up to one year without further hearing in

order to comply with this condition. During the one year extension, all original conditions of probation will apply.

13. **License Surrender.** During Respondent's term of probation, if she ceases practicing due to retirement, health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy the conditions of probation, Respondent may surrender her license to the Board. The Board reserves the right to evaluate Respondent's request and to exercise its discretion whether to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances, without further hearing. Upon formal acceptance of the tendered license and wall certificate, Respondent will no longer be subject to the conditions of probation.

Surrender of Respondent's license shall be considered a disciplinary action and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Board. A registered nurse whose license has been surrendered may petition the Board for reinstatement no sooner than the following minimum periods from the effective date of the disciplinary decision:

(1) Two years for reinstatement of a license that was surrendered for any reason other than a mental or physical illness; or

(2) One year for a license surrendered for a mental or physical illness.

14. **Physical Examination.** Within 45 days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent, at her expense, shall have a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant, who is approved by the Board before the assessment is performed, submit an assessment of the Respondent's physical condition and capability to perform the duties of a registered nurse. Such an assessment shall be submitted in a format acceptable to the Board. If medically determined, a recommended treatment program will be instituted and followed by the Respondent with the physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant providing written reports to the Board on forms provided by the Board.

If Respondent is determined to be unable to practice safely as a registered nurse, the licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant making this determination shall immediately notify the Board and Respondent by telephone, and the Board shall request that the Attorney General's office prepare an accusation or petition to revoke probation. Respondent

shall immediately cease practice and shall not resume practice until notified by the Board. During this period of suspension, Respondent shall not engage in any practice for which a license issued by the Board is required until the Board has notified Respondent that a medical determination permits Respondent to resume practice. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this probationary time period.

If Respondent fails to have the above assessment submitted to the Board within the 45-day requirement, Respondent shall immediately cease practice and shall not resume practice until notified by the Board. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this probationary time period. The Board may waive or postpone this suspension only if significant, documented evidence of mitigation is provided. Such evidence must establish good faith efforts by Respondent to obtain the assessment, and a specific date for compliance must be provided. Only one such waiver or extension may be permitted.

15. **Participate in Treatment/Rehabilitation Program for Chemical Dependence.** Respondent, at her expense, shall successfully complete during the probationary period or shall have successfully completed prior to commencement of probation a Board-approved treatment/rehabilitation program of at least six months duration. As required, reports shall be submitted by the program on forms provided by the Board. If Respondent has not completed a Board-approved treatment/rehabilitation program prior to commencement of probation, Respondent, within 45 days from the effective date of the decision, shall be enrolled in a program. If a program is not successfully completed within the first nine months of probation, the Board shall consider Respondent in violation of probation.

Based on Board recommendation, each week Respondent shall be required to attend at least one, but no more than five 12-step recovery meetings or equivalent (e.g., Narcotics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous, etc.) and a nurse support group as approved and directed by the Board. If a nurse support group is not available, an additional 12-step meeting or equivalent shall be added. Respondent shall submit dated and signed documentation confirming such attendance to the Board during the entire period of probation. Respondent shall continue

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with the recovery plan recommended by the treatment/rehabilitation program or a licensed mental health examiner and/or other ongoing recovery groups.

16. **Abstain from Use of Psychotropic (Mood-Altering) Drugs.** Respondent shall completely abstain from the possession, injection or consumption by any route of all controlled substances and all psychotropic (mood altering) drugs, including alcohol, except when the same are ordered by a health care professional legally authorized to do so as part of documented medical treatment. Respondent shall have sent to the Board, in writing and within fourteen (14) days, by the prescribing health professional, a report identifying the medication, dosage, the date the medication was prescribed, the Respondent's prognosis, the date the medication will no longer be required, and the effect on the recovery plan, if appropriate.

Respondent shall identify for the Board a single physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant who shall be aware of Respondent's history of substance abuse and will coordinate and monitor any prescriptions for Respondent for dangerous drugs, controlled substances or mood-altering drugs. The coordinating physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant shall report to the Board on a quarterly basis Respondent's compliance with this condition. If any substances considered addictive have been prescribed, the report shall identify a program for the time limited use of any such substances.

The Board may require the single coordinating physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant to be a specialist in addictive medicine, or to consult with a specialist in addictive medicine.

17. **Submit to Tests and Samples.** Respondent, at her expense, shall participate in a random, biological fluid testing or a drug screening program which the Board approves. The length of time and frequency will be subject to approval by the Board. Respondent is responsible for keeping the Board informed of Respondent's current telephone number at all times. Respondent shall also ensure that messages may be left at the telephone number when she is not available and ensure that reports are submitted directly by the testing agency to the Board, as directed. Any confirmed positive finding shall be reported immediately to the Board by the program and Respondent shall be considered in violation of probation.

In addition, Respondent, at any time during the period of probation, shall fully cooperate with the Board or any of its representatives, and shall, when requested, submit to such tests and samples as the Board or its representatives may require for the detection of alcohol, narcotics, hypnotics, dangerous drugs, or other controlled substances.

If Respondent has a positive drug screen for any substance not legally authorized and not reported to the coordinating physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant, and the Board files a petition to revoke probation or an accusation, the Board may suspend Respondent from practice pending the final decision on the petition to revoke probation or the accusation. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this probationary time period.

If Respondent fails to participate in a random, biological fluid testing or drug screening program within the specified time frame, Respondent shall immediately cease practice and shall not resume practice until notified by the Board. After taking into account documented evidence of mitigation, if the Board files a petition to revoke probation or an accusation, the Board may suspend Respondent from practice pending the final decision on the petition to revoke probation or the accusation. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this probationary time period.

18. **Mental Health Examination.** Respondent shall, within 45 days of the effective date of this Decision, have a mental health examination including psychological testing as appropriate to determine her capability to perform the duties of a registered nurse. The examination will be performed by a psychiatrist, psychologist or other licensed mental health practitioner approved by the Board. The examining mental health practitioner will submit a written report of that assessment and recommendations to the Board. All costs are the responsibility of Respondent. Recommendations for treatment, therapy or counseling made as a result of the mental health examination will be instituted and followed by Respondent.

If Respondent is determined to be unable to practice safely as a registered nurse, the licensed mental health care practitioner making this determination shall immediately notify the Board and Respondent by telephone, and the Board shall request that the Attorney General's office prepare an accusation or petition to revoke probation. Respondent shall immediately cease

practice and may not resume practice until notified by the Board. During this period of suspension, Respondent shall not engage in any practice for which a license issued by the Board is required, until the Board has notified Respondent that a mental health determination permits Respondent to resume practice. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this probationary time period.

If Respondent fails to have the above assessment submitted to the Board within the 45-day requirement, Respondent shall immediately cease practice and shall not resume practice until notified by the Board. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this probationary time period. The Board may waive or postpone this suspension only if significant, documented evidence of mitigation is provided. Such evidence must establish good faith efforts by Respondent to obtain the assessment, and a specific date for compliance must be provided. Only one such waiver or extension may be permitted.

19. **Therapy or Counseling Program.** Respondent, at her expense, shall participate in an on-going counseling program until such time as the Board releases her from this requirement and only upon the recommendation of the counselor. Written progress reports from the counselor will be required at various intervals.

20. **Violation of Probation.** If Respondent violates the conditions of her probation, the Board after giving Respondent notice and an opportunity to be heard, may set aside the stay order and impose the stayed discipline (revocation/suspension) of Respondent's license.

If during the period of probation, an accusation or petition to revoke probation has been filed against Respondent's license or the Attorney General's Office has been requested to prepare an accusation or petition to revoke probation against Respondent's license, the probationary period shall automatically be extended and shall not expire until the accusation or petition has been acted upon by the Board.

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ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my RN. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Registered Nursing.

DATED: 10/22/07

KELLY CLAIRE SCHMITT (Respondent)
Respondent

ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board of Registered Nursing of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

DATED: 10/22/07

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General
of the State of California

LINDA K. SCHNEIDER
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

Jane de Leeuw for
ANTOINETTE B. CINCOTTA
Deputy Attorney General

Attorneys for Complainant

DOJ Matter ID: SD2007800638
80168446.wpd

Exhibit A

Accusation No. 2008-18

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General
of the State of California
LINDA K. SCHNEIDER
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
ANTOINETTE B. CINCOTTA, State Bar No. 120482
Deputy Attorney General
California Department of Justice
110 West "A" Street, Suite 1100
San Diego, CA 92101

P.O. Box 85266
San Diego, CA 92186-5266
Telephone: (619) 645-2095
Facsimile: (619) 645-2061

Attorneys for Complainant

BEFORE THE
BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against: KELLY CLAIRE SCHMITT, a.k.a. KELLY CLAIR SCHMITT 37043 Sycamore Dr. Mentone, CA 92359 Registered Nurse License No. 632617 Respondent.	Case No. 2008-18 **ACCUSATION**

Complainant alleges:

PARTIES

1. Ruth Ann Terry, M.P.H., R.N. ("Complainant") brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Registered Nursing ("Board"), Department of Consumer Affairs.

2. On or about February 18, 2004, the Board issued Registered Nurse License Number 632617 to Kelly Claire Schmitt, also known as Kelly Clair Schmitt ("Respondent"). Respondent's registered nurse license was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on December 31, 2007, unless renewed.

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STATUTORY PROVISIONS

3. Business and Professions Code ("Code") section 2750 provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may discipline any licensee, including a licensee holding a temporary or an inactive license, for any reason provided in Article 3 (commencing with Code section 2750) of the Nursing Practice Act.

4. Code section 2764 provides, in pertinent part, that the expiration of a license shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee or to render a decision imposing discipline on the license. Under Code section 2811, subdivision (b), the Board may renew an expired license at any time within eight years after the expiration.

5. Code section 2761 states, in pertinent part:

> The board may take disciplinary action against a certified or licensed nurse or deny an application for a certificate or license for any of the following:
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> (a) Unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, the following:
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> . . . .
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> (f) Conviction of a felony or of any offense substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a registered nurse, in which event the record of the conviction shall be conclusive evidence thereof. . .

6. Code section 2762 states, in pertinent part:

> In addition to other acts constituting unprofessional conduct within the meaning of this chapter [the Nursing Practice Act], it is unprofessional conduct for a person licensed under this chapter to do any of the following:
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> (a) Obtain or possess in violation of law, or prescribe, or except as directed by a licensed physician and surgeon, dentist, or podiatrist administer to himself or herself, or furnish or administer to another, any controlled substance as defined in Division 10 (commencing with Section 11000) of the Health and Safety Code or any dangerous drug or dangerous device as defined in Section 4022.
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> . . . .
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> (c) Be convicted of a criminal offense involving the prescription, consumption, or self-administration of any of the substances described in subdivisions (a) and (b) of this section, or the possession of, or falsification of a record pertaining to, the substances described in subdivision (a) of this section, in which event the record of the conviction is conclusive evidence thereof. . .

7. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1444, states in pertinent part:

> A conviction or act shall be considered to be substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a registered nurse if to a substantial degree it evidences the present or potential unfitness of a registered nurse to practice in a manner consistent with the public health, safety, or welfare. Such convictions or acts shall include but not be limited to the following:
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> . . . .
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> (c) Theft, dishonesty, fraud, or deceit.

8. Code section 2765 states:

> A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere made to a charge substantially related to the qualifications, functions and duties of a registered nurse is deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of this article. The board may order the license or certificate suspended or revoked, or may decline to issue a license or certificate, when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under the provisions of Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code allowing such person to withdraw his or her plea of guilty and to enter a plea of not guilty, or setting aside the verdict of guilty, or dismissing the accusation, information or indictment.

9. Code section 4060 states:

> No person shall possess any controlled substance, except that furnished to a person upon the prescription of a physician, dentist, podiatrist, optometrist, veterinarian, or naturopathic doctor pursuant to Section 3640.7, or furnished pursuant to a drug order issued by a certified nurse-midwife pursuant to Section 2746.51, a nurse practitioner pursuant to Section 2836.1, a physician assistant pursuant to Section 3502.1, a naturopathic doctor pursuant to Section 3640.5, or a pharmacist pursuant to either subparagraph (D) of paragraph (4) of, or clause (iv) of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (5) of, subdivision (a) of Section 4052. This section shall not apply to the possession of any controlled substance by a manufacturer, wholesaler, pharmacy, pharmacist, physician, podiatrist, dentist, optometrist, veterinarian, naturopathic doctor, certified nurse-midwife, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant, when in stock in containers correctly labeled with the name and address of the supplier or producer.
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> Nothing in this section authorizes a certified nurse-midwife, a nurse practitioner, a physician assistant, or a naturopathic doctor, to order his or her own stock of dangerous drugs and devices.

10. Health and Safety Code ("Health & Saf. Code") section 11173, subdivision (a), states, in pertinent part, that no person shall obtain or attempt to obtain controlled substances, or procure or attempt to procure the administration of or prescription for controlled substances by fraud, deceit, misrepresentation or subterfuge.

11. Section 482 of the Code states:

Each board under the provisions of this code shall develop criteria to evaluate the rehabilitation of a person when:

(a) Considering the denial of a license by the board under Section 480; or
(b) Considering suspension or revocation of a license under Section 490.

Each board shall take into account all competent evidence of rehabilitation furnished by the applicant or licensee."

12. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1445 provides:

(a) When considering the denial of a license under Section 480 of the code, the board, in evaluating the rehabilitation of the applicant and his/her present eligibility for a license will consider the following criteria:

(1) The nature and severity of the act(s) or crime(s) under consideration as grounds for denial.

(2) Evidence of any act(s) committed subsequent to the act(s) or crime(s) under consideration as grounds for denial which also could be considered as grounds for denial under Section 480 of the code.

(3) The time that has elapsed since commission of the act(s) or crime(s) referred to in subdivision (1) or (2).

(4) The extent to which the applicant has complied with any terms of parole, probation, restitution, or any other sanctions lawfully imposed against the applicant.

(5) Evidence, if any, of rehabilitation submitted by the applicant.

(b) When considering the suspension or revocation of a license on the grounds that a registered nurse has been convicted of a crime, the board, in evaluating the rehabilitation of such person and his/her eligibility for a license will consider the following criteria:

(1) Nature and severity of the act(s) or offense(s).

(2) Total criminal record.

(3) The time that has elapsed since commission of the act(s) or offense(s).

(4) Whether the licensee has complied with any terms of parole, probation, restitution or any other sanctions lawfully imposed against the licensee.

(5) If applicable, evidence of expungement proceedings pursuant to Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code.

(6) Evidence, if any, of rehabilitation submitted by the licensee.

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COST RECOVERY

13. Code section 125.3 provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE AT ISSUE

14. "Meperidine Hydrochloride", a derivative of pethidine, is a Schedule II controlled substance as designated by Health & Saf. Code section 11055, subdivision (c)(17).

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(November 2, 2006 Criminal Conviction for Forged Prescription December 30, 2005)

15. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Code sections 490 and 2761, subdivision (f), in that she was convicted of a crime which is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a registered nurse. The circumstances are as follows:

16. On or about November 2, 2006, in the criminal proceeding titled *People v. Kelly Claire Schmitt* (Sup. Ct. Riverside County, 2006, No. RIF129384), Respondent was convicted by the Court on her plea of guilty to one misdemeanor count in violation of Code section 4324, subdivision (a) (forged prescription).

17. The facts underlying the conviction are that beginning in or about June 2005 through December 2005, medications (Meperidine and hydromorphone) began disappearing from an Acudose-RX station inventory in Riverside Community Hospital where respondent worked. The hospital staff suspected an employee was stealing the medications. On or about December 23, 2005, while on duty and working as a nurse at Riverside Community Hospital, Respondent was found passed out in one of the hospital restrooms with "track marks" on both arms, which is typically caused by drugs being administered using a syringe. The following day Respondent agreed to take a drug screen test. The test was positive for drugs. Respondent was suspended pending an investigation by the hospital staff. The hospital staff suspected Respondent might be responsible for the missing medications and therefore monitored the surveillance video more closely to see if Respondent might enter the hospital after her

suspension. Surveillance videos revealed that after her suspension, Respondent entered the hospital using her pass card key and wearing hospital scrubs on or about December 28, 2005 and December 30, 2005. On or about December 30, 2005, Respondent accessed the Acudose-RX station using another employee's pass code and removed 7 100-milligram syringes of Meperidine for a patient A.P. and left the hospital. This employee was not working at the time Respondent accessed the Acudose-RX station.

18. Respondent was placed on probation for three years, ordered: (1) to serve 90 days in custody on consecutive weekends; (2) to pay fines including $20.00 for court security fee, $110.00 for a booking fee, and restitution of $100.00; (3) to not use or possess any controlled substances, unless medically prescribed, submit to chemical tests of blood, saliva, breath, or urine or any reasonable physical test upon request of any probation or law enforcement officer; (4) to submit to immediate search of her person, auto, home, premises, garage, storage areas and personal/leased property with or without cause by police or law enforcement officer; (5) to enroll in and comlete the MFI 8 week program, not associate with any unrelated person known to be possessor, user, trafficker of controlled substances nor unrelated person on probation or parole.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Diversion and Possession of a Controlled Substance)

19. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Code section 2761, subdivision (a), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, as defined by Code section 2762, subdivision (a), for violation of section 4060 and Health and Safety Code section 11173, subdivision (a) as set forth in detail in paragraphs 16, 17, and 18 incorporated herein by this reference:

Diversion of a Controlled Substance:

a. Respondent obtained the controlled substance meperidine by fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, or subterfuge, in violation of Health & Saf. Code section 11173, subdivision (a). Respondent accessed one of the hospital's Acudose Rx stations using the pass code of another nurse who was not on duty, removed seven 100-milligram syringes of meperidine under patient name A.P., and departed the hospital.

Possession of a Controlled Substance:

b. Respondent possessed seven 100-milligram syringes of meperidine without a valid prescription from a physician, dentist, podiatrist, optometrist, veterinarian, or naturopathic doctor, in violation of Code section 4060.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Conviction Related to Prescription of a Controlled Substance)

20. *Respondent is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Code* section 2761, subdivision (a), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, as defined by Code section 2762, subdivision (c). On or about November 2, 2006, Respondent was convicted of a criminal offense involving the prescription of a controlled substance, as set forth in paragraphs 16, 17, and 18 which are incorporated herein by this reference.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board of Registered Nursing issue a decision:

1. Revoking or suspending Registered Nurse License Number 632617, issued to Kelly Claire Schmitt, also known as Kelly Clair Schmitt;

2. Ordering Kelly Claire Schmitt, also known as Kelly Clair Schmitt, to pay the Board of Registered Nursing the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Code section 125.3; and

3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: 2/16/07

Elliot Hochberg for

RUTH ANN TERRY, M.P.H., R.N.
Executive Officer
Board of Registered Nursing
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant

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