

**STATE OF VERMONT  
BOARD OF MEDICAL PRACTICE**

In re: Deborah Ann Bristol, PA-C                    )  
  )  
  )  
  )                   Licensing Committee Matter

**STIPULATION AND CONSENT ORDER**

NOW COME Deborah Ann Bristol, PA-C, (Applicant), and the State of Vermont, by and through Attorney General William H. Sorrell and undersigned Assistant Attorney General, James S. Arisman, and agree and stipulate as follows:

1. Deborah Ann Bristol, PA-C, applied on May 20, 2007 to the Vermont Board of Medical Practice for certification as a physician assistant. The Board's licensing committee has considered her application and related documentation. This agreement reflects the recommendation of the licensing committee in this matter.

2. Jurisdiction vests with the Vermont Board of Medical Practice (Board) by virtue of 26 V.S.A. §§ 1733—39, and 3 V.S.A. § 814.

**I. Background.**

**A. National Certification.**

3. Applicant holds certification from the National Commission for Certification of Physician Assistants (No. 1015191), issued on January 15, 1986. Applicant has held certification as a physician assistant from the State of Maine

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(Nos. PA-156 & Pa-256) and previously from the State of Vermont (Nos. 55-0030184, 55-0030344, 55-0030234, &55-0030258).

4. Applicant trained as a physician assistant at the University of Iowa from May 1983 to June 1985.

5. Applicant has no record of discipline by any state licensing board.

**B. Interruption of Practice.**

6. Applicant indicates that she interrupted her practice as a physician assistant in beginning in 1998, while pregnant with her third child. Thereafter, she was a full time stay-at-home mother for the following 9 years. Applicant now wishes to return to practice. Applicant has continuously maintained her national certification as physician assistant and last passed her recertification examination in 2004. She reports that she has maintained a current fund of knowledge through continuous review of professional journals and attendance at conferences, mainly at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center.

**C. Practice at the VA White River Junction Medical Center.**

7. Applicant has been offered a position as a physician assistant at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center in White River Junction. The chief of primary care at the VA Medical Center is fully aware of Applicant's period of interrupted practice between 1998 and the present. He cites Applicant's examination and communication skills, as well as her extensive past practice experience as the basis for the VA's offer of employment to her. He also cites the

VA's systems of supervision, consultation, and staff education as ensuring a successful return to clinical practice by Applicant.

8. Applicant would practice as a physician assistant in the primary care unit at the VA Medical Center, providing general medical care, preventive care, and management and evaluation of acute and chronic conditions.

#### **D. Basis for Agreement.**

9. Applicant has determined that she shall voluntarily enter into this agreement with the Vermont Board of Medical Practice. She agrees that all practice by her as a physician assistant medicine shall be subject to the terms and conditions set forth below.

10. Applicant acknowledges that she has been offered the opportunity to obtain an attorney and to receive legal advice and counsel regarding this matter. She warrants here that she is satisfied with any advice, counsel, and representation she may have received to date in the instant matter. She agrees and fully understands that by executing this document she is waiving the necessity of any further proceedings of any kind before the Board of Medical Practice, at this time, so as to proceed with this agreement. 3 V.S.A. § 809(d). In consideration of the Board's action in this matter, Applicant voluntarily and knowingly agrees to the terms and conditions herein.

11. Applicant understands and agrees that subsequent to approval of this agreement, if warranted, she could be required to enter into other terms and

conditions, in addition to or in substitution for and those already required herein by the Board. Any such new or additional terms and conditions would be at the sole discretion of the Vermont Board of Medical Practice and would be set forth by Board order.

12. The parties now enter into the instant Stipulation and Consent Order, which is intended to serve as a means of providing for Applicant's return to practice and ensuring the safety and sound medical care of patients. This is a **non-disciplinary** agreement that is intended solely to provide for Applicant's certification and return to practice.

13. Applicant expressly acknowledges that this Stipulation and Consent Order shall be legally binding and enforceable upon her.

## **II. Terms and Conditions.**

14. Applicant agrees that she shall execute any and all waivers of confidentiality that may be required so as to permit the Board, its staff, or agents review any and all assessments, evaluations, reports regarding her practice activities, care of patients, fund of knowledge, and general performance of her responsibilities as a physician assistant. She agrees not to terminate such authorization(s) and to execute such further authorizations as might be required for the Board of Medical Practice to obtain and review such information. Consistent with such authorizations Applicant expressly agrees that the Board or its agents at any time may communicate orally to obtain information from supervisors, peers,

and practitioners having knowledge of her performance of her duties as a physician assistant.

15. Applicant also understands and agrees information, as described above in Paragraph 14, as well as her compliance with the terms and conditions herein shall be considered in any determinations or proceeding(s) before the Board regarding her certification(s).

16. Applicant agrees that all reasonable recommendations from her VA Medical Center supervisors shall be incorporated as additional terms and conditions of this Stipulation and Consent Order. She expressly agrees that she shall fully and in good faith comply with all such reasonable recommendations.

17. Evaluations, reports and/or assessments regarding Applicant's practice as a physician assistant and performance of her duties, as referred to above, which are supplied to the Board pursuant to this Stipulation and Consent Order, shall be held confidential, and shall not be subject to disclosure to anyone other than the Board, its employees, and agents, other than through disclosure as evidence in formal Board proceedings.

**A. Compliance with Institutional Administrative Requirements.**

18. Applicant agrees that while employed as a physician assistant at the VA Medical Center, she shall comply with all administrative requirements and/or guidelines of the institution. Applicant agrees that she shall promptly provide to the Board of Medical Practice copies of any notices, memoranda, notes, and similar

writings pertaining to her performance and compliance with administrative requirements of the institution.

**B. Supervision and Reporting.**

19. Applicant agrees that her supervising physician(s), shall be identified by name and shall be subject to actual Board approval or disapproval at any time, in the Board's sole discretion. Applicant agrees that her supervisor(s) shall forward to the Board written quarterly reports regarding Applicant's performance as a physician assistant, addressing duties, strengths and weaknesses, and ability to practice safely and competently. Applicant agrees that she shall be responsible for ensuring that such quarterly reports are promptly prepared and forwarded to the Board. Applicant agrees that the Board or its agents may communicate, orally or in writing, with her supervising physician(s), other practitioners, and peers at the VA Medical Center at any time regarding her performance of her duties and her practice as a physician assistant.

**C. Usual Requirements for Certification.**

20. Applicant acknowledges and agrees that she cannot practice as a physician assistant in the State of Vermont unless she has met all usual Board requirements for certification at a specific practice site, including approval of all supervising physicians and of a written scope of practice.

21. Applicant agrees that the Vermont Board of Medical Practice may adopt Paragraphs 3 through 20, above, and this paragraph as its findings of fact

and/or conclusions of law in this matter. She agrees and accepts that these paragraphs and this agreement, generally, provide a sufficient basis for entry and enforcement of this Stipulation and Consent Order by the Vermont Board of Medical Practice.<sup>1</sup>

#### D. Acknowledgement.

22. Applicant agrees that she has read and carefully considered all terms and conditions herein as to this agreement, and she agrees that these may be adopted as an enforceable order of the Board. She agrees to accept and be bound by these terms and conditions until such time as she may be expressly relieved of these terms and conditions or they are modified in writing by the Board.

23. Applicant acknowledges and agrees that the Board of Medical Practice may and shall review her compliance with the above terms and prevailing professional standards in determining whether further order of the Board or amendment of this agreement is required. Applicant acknowledges that any material or repeated non-compliance with the terms and conditions of this agreement (or institutional requirements or expectations) could result in further Board action.

24. The parties agree that Applicant may apply for modification or relief from the terms and conditions of this agreement by petition that includes as exhibits copies of all

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1. Applicant understands and agrees that this Stipulation and Consent Order, without more, does **not** create a right to unconditioned certification as a physician assistant in Vermont and does not constitute a promise by the Vermont Board regarding continued or future certification. Any such action determination shall be based on Applicant's compliance with this agreement and evaluation of her performance as a physician assistant following her return to practice, as reported to the Board.

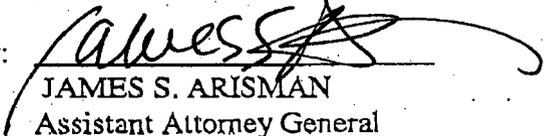
assessments, evaluations, and commentaries regarding Applicant's practice activities at the VA Medical Center. Applicant agrees that the Board shall not consider any such petition earlier than 24 months from the effective date of this agreement.

25. This agreement is subject to review and acceptance by the Vermont Board of Medical Practice and shall not become effective until presented to and approved by the Board. If the Board rejects any part of this agreement, the entire agreement shall be considered void. Applicant agrees her acceptance of this agreement is entirely voluntary and knowing. She agrees that if the Board does not accept this agreement in its current form, she shall not assert in any subsequent proceeding that her rights have been prejudiced by any such prior consideration. However, if this agreement is deemed acceptable, the parties request that the Board enter an order adopting the terms and conditions as set forth herein. Applicant agrees that the Board of Medical Practice shall retain continuing jurisdiction in this matter and may legally enforce as necessary all terms and conditions herein, including by further Board order(s).

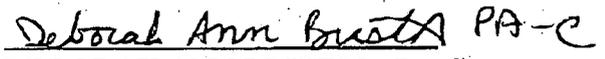
Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of August 2007.

STATE OF VERMONT

WILLIAM H. SORRELL  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

by:   
JAMES S. ARISMAN  
Assistant Attorney General

Dated at ETNA, N.H., this 21 day of August 2007.

  
DEBORAH ANN BRISTOL, PA-C  
Applicant, *pro se*

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109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT  
05609

FOREGOING, AS TO DEBORAH ANN BRISTOL, PA-C  
APPROVED AND ORDERED  
VERMONT BOARD OF MEDICAL PRACTICE

*Sharon Jones*

*Richard Jensen, M.D.*

*Peter Panashow, MD*

*Wendy Johnson*

*Wendy Johnson*

*Wendy Johnson*

*Wendy Johnson*

DATED: 9/5/07

ENTERED AND EFFECTIVE: 9/5/07

Deborah Ann Bristol, PA-C: STIP/CONSENT: JSA 8/07; Not Effective Until Reviewed and Approved by the Vermont Board of Medical Practice

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