


OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL
Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners
9600 Gateway Drive
Reno, Nevada 89521
(775) 688-2559

1 **BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**
2 **OF THE STATE OF NEVADA**

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5 **In the Matter of Charges and Complaint**
6 **Against:**
7 **LORA LEIGH WATSON, RRT,**
8 **Respondent.**

Case No. 23-24104-1
FILED
SEP 15 2023
NEVADA STATE BOARD OF
MEDICAL EXAMINERS
By: 

9
10 **SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

11 The Investigative Committee (IC) of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners
12 (Board), by and through Deonne E. Contine, General Counsel for the Board and attorney for the
13 IC, and Lora Leigh Watson, RRT (Respondent), a licensed respiratory therapist in Nevada, hereby
14 enter into this Settlement Agreement (Agreement) based on the following:¹

15 **A. BACKGROUND**

16 1. Respondent is a respiratory therapist currently licensed in suspended status by the
17 Board pursuant to Chapter 630 of the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Chapter 630 of the
18 Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) (collectively, the Medical Practice Act) to practice
19 respiratory therapy in Nevada. Her license was originally issued on November 27, 2001,
20 (License No. RC137).

21 2. On March 22, 2023, in Case No. 23-24104-1, the IC filed a formal Complaint
22 (Complaint) charging Respondent with violating the Medical Practice Act. Specifically, the
23 Complaint alleges one (1) violation of NRS 630.306(1)(a) Inability to Practice Respiratory
24 Therapy with Reasonable Skill and Safety (Count I), and one (1) violation of NRS 630.3065(2)(a)

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27 ¹ All agreements and admissions made by Respondent are solely for final disposition of this matter and any
28 subsequent related administrative proceedings or civil litigation involving the Board and Respondent. Therefore,
Respondent's agreements and admissions are not intended or made for any other use, such as in the context of another
state or federal government regulatory agency proceeding, state or federal civil or criminal proceeding, any state or
federal court proceeding, or any credentialing or privileges matter.

1 Failing to Comply with a Lawful Order of the Investigative Committee (Count II). By reason of
2 the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as provided in NRS 630.352.

3 3. Respondent was properly served with a copy of this Complaint, has reviewed and
4 understands this Complaint, and has had the opportunity to consult with competent counsel
5 concerning the nature and significance of this Complaint.

6 4. Respondent is hereby advised of her rights regarding this administrative matter,
7 and of her opportunity to defend against the allegations in the Complaint. Specifically,
8 Respondent has certain rights in this administrative matter as set out by the United States
9 Constitution, the Nevada Constitution, the Medical Practice Act, the Nevada Open Meeting Law
10 (OML), which is contained in NRS Chapter 241, and the Nevada Administrative Procedure Act
11 (APA), which is contained in NRS Chapter 233B and 622A. These rights include the right to a
12 formal hearing on the allegations in the Complaint, the right to representation by counsel, at her
13 own expense, in the preparation and presentation of her defense, the right to confront and cross-
14 examine the witnesses and evidence against her, the right to written findings of fact, conclusions
15 of law and order reflecting the final decision of the Board, and the right to judicial review of the
16 Board's order, if the decision is adverse to her.

17 5. Respondent understands that, under the Board's charge to protect the public by
18 regulating the practice of medicine, the Board may take disciplinary action against Respondent's
19 license, including license probation, license suspension, license revocation and imposition of
20 administrative fines, as well as any other reasonable requirement or limitation, if the Board
21 concludes that Respondent violated one or more provisions of the Medical Practice Act.

22 6. Respondent understands and agrees that this Agreement, by and between
23 Respondent and the IC, is not with the Board, and that the IC will present this Agreement to the
24 Board for consideration in open session at a duly noticed and scheduled meeting. Respondent
25 understands that the IC shall advocate for the Board's approval of this Agreement, but that the
26 Board has the right to decide in its own discretion whether or not to approve this Agreement.
27 Respondent further understands and agrees that if the Board approves this Agreement, then the
28 terms and conditions enumerated below shall be binding and enforceable upon her and the Board.

1 **B. TERMS & CONDITIONS**

2 **NOW, THEREFORE**, in order to resolve the matters addressed herein, i.e., the matters
3 with regard to the Complaint, Respondent and the IC hereby agree to the following terms and
4 conditions:

5 1. **Jurisdiction.** Respondent is, and at all times relevant to the Complaint has been, a
6 physician licensed to practice medicine in Nevada subject to the jurisdiction of the Board as set
7 forth in the Medical Practice Act.

8 2. **Representation by Counsel/Knowing, Willing and Intelligent Agreement.**
9 Respondent acknowledges she is not represented by counsel, and wishes to resolve the matters
10 addressed herein without counsel. Respondent agrees that if representation by counsel in this
11 matter materially changes prior to entering into this Agreement and for the duration of this
12 Agreement, that counsel for the IC will be timely notified of the material change. Respondent
13 agrees that she knowingly, willingly and intelligently enters into this Agreement after deciding to
14 forgo a full consultation with and upon the advice of legal counsel.

15 3. **Waiver of Rights.** In connection with this Agreement, and the associated terms
16 and conditions, Respondent knowingly, willingly and intelligently waives all rights in connection
17 with this administrative matter. Respondent hereby knowingly, willingly and intelligently waives
18 all rights arising under the United States Constitution, the Nevada Constitution, the Medical
19 Practice Act, the OML, the APA, and any other legal rights that may be available to her or that
20 may apply to her in connection with the administrative proceedings resulting from the Complaint
21 filed in this matter, including defense of the Complaint, adjudication of the allegations set forth in
22 the Complaint, and imposition of any disciplinary actions or sanctions ordered by the Board.
23 Respondent agrees to settle and resolve the allegations of the Complaint as set out by this
24 Agreement, without a hearing or any further proceedings and without the right to judicial review.

25 4. **Acknowledgement of Reasonable Basis to Proceed.** As of the time of entering
26 into this Settlement Agreement, the allegations of the Complaint remain unproven. Respondent
27 acknowledges that the IC believes it has a reasonable basis to allege that Respondent engaged in
28 conduct that is grounds for discipline pursuant to the Medical Practice Act. The IC acknowledges

1 Respondent is not admitting that the IC's claims/counts as alleged in the Complaint have merit
2 and Respondent is agreeing to resolve this matter to avoid the costs of hearing and potential
3 subsequent litigation. Respondent asserts if this matter were to proceed to hearing, she has
4 evidence, witnesses, expert witness(es) and defenses to the counts/claims alleged in the
5 Complaint, but for the purposes of resolving the matter and for no other purpose, Respondent
6 waives the presentation of evidence, witnesses, expert witnesses, and defenses in order to
7 effectuate this Agreement.

8 5. Consent to Entry of Order. In order to resolve this Complaint pending against
9 Respondent, Respondent hereby agrees that the Board may issue an order finding that Respondent
10 engaged in conduct that is grounds for discipline pursuant to the Medical Practice Act.
11 Accordingly, the following terms and conditions are hereby agreed upon:

12 a. Respondent admits to Count II, one (1) violation of NRS 630.3065(2)(a)
13 Failing to Comply with a Lawful Order of the Investigative Committee.

14 b. Respondent will immediately cease the practice of respiratory care and
15 immediately voluntarily surrender her license to practice respiratory therapy within the State of
16 Nevada.

17 c. Respondent will not reapply for license to practice respiratory therapy
18 within the State of Nevada prior to October 21, 2026.

19 d. Respondent will pay the costs and expenses incurred in the investigation
20 and prosecution of the above-referenced matter, in the amount of nine hundred and sixteen dollars
21 and twenty four cents (\$916.24), with those costs and expenses to be immediately stayed, until
22 such time as Respondent reapplies for licensure, at which time, Respondent is thereby ordered to
23 pay the aforementioned costs and expenses within sixty (60) days from submitting her application
24 for licensure.

25 e. This Agreement shall be reported to the appropriate entities and parties as
26 required by law, including, but not limited to, the National Practitioner Data Bank.

27 f. The remaining count of the Complaint, and any other claims arising from
28 the Board's corresponding investigative case file(s), shall be dismissed with prejudice.

1 6. **Release from Liability.** In execution of this Agreement, Respondent understands
2 and agrees that the State of Nevada, the Board, and each of its members, staff, counsel,
3 investigators, experts, peer reviewers, committees, panels, hearing officers, consultants and agents
4 are immune from civil liability for any decision or action taken in good faith in response to
5 information acquired by the Board. NRS 630.364(2)(a). Respondent agrees to release the State of
6 Nevada, the Board, and each of its members, staff, counsel, investigators, experts, peer reviewers,
7 committees, panels, hearing officers, consultants and agents from any and all manner of actions,
8 causes of action, suits, debts, judgments, executions, claims and demands whatsoever, known and
9 unknown, in law or equity, that Respondent ever had, now has, may have or claim to have, against
10 any or all of the persons, government agencies or entities named in this paragraph arising out of,
11 or by reason of, this investigation, this Agreement or the administration of the case referenced
12 herein.

13 7. **Procedure for Adoption of Agreement.** The IC and counsel for the IC shall
14 recommend approval and adoption of the terms and conditions of this Agreement by the Board in
15 resolution of this Complaint. In the course of seeking Board acceptance, approval and adoption of
16 this Agreement, counsel for the IC may communicate directly with the Board staff and the
17 adjudicating members of the Board.

18 Respondent acknowledges that such contacts and communications may be made or
19 conducted ex-parte, without notice or opportunity to be heard on her part until the public Board
20 meeting where this Agreement is discussed, and that such contacts and communications may
21 include, but may not be limited to, matters concerning this Agreement, the Complaint and any and
22 all information of every nature whatsoever related to this matter. The IC and its counsel agree that
23 Respondent and/or Counsel for the Respondent may appear at the Board meeting where this
24 Agreement is discussed and, if requested, respond to any questions that may be addressed to the
25 IC or the IC's counsel.

26 8. **Effect of Acceptance of Agreement by Board.** In the event the Board accepts,
27 approves and adopts this Agreement, the Board shall issue a final order, making this Agreement

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1 an order of the Board, and, pending full compliance with the terms herein, the case shall be closed
2 and all remaining claims arising out of the Complaint shall be dismissed with prejudice.

3 9. **Effect of Rejection of Agreement by Board.** In the event the Board does not
4 accept, approve and adopt this Agreement, this Agreement shall be null, void and of no force and
5 effect except as to the following agreement regarding adjudications: (1) Respondent agrees that,
6 notwithstanding rejection of this Agreement by the Board, nothing contained in this Agreement
7 and nothing that occurs pursuant to efforts of the IC to seek the Board's acceptance of this
8 Agreement shall disqualify any member of the adjudicating panel of the Board from considering
9 this Complaint and from participating in disciplinary proceedings against Respondent, including
10 adjudication of this case; and (2) Respondent further agrees that she shall not seek to disqualify
11 any such member absent evidence of bad faith.

12 10. **Binding Effect.** If approved by the Board, Respondent understands that this
13 Agreement is a binding and enforceable contract upon Respondent and the Board.

14 11. **Forum Selection Clause.** The parties agree that in the event either party is
15 required to seek enforcement of this Agreement in district court, the party's consent to such
16 jurisdiction and agree that exclusive jurisdiction shall be in the Second Judicial District Court,
17 State of Nevada, Washoe County.

18 12. **Attorneys' Fees and Costs.** The parties agree that in the event an action is
19 commenced in district court to enforce any provision of this Agreement, the prevailing party shall
20 be entitled to recover reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

21 13. **Failure to Comply with Terms.** Should Respondent fail to comply with any term
22 or condition of this Agreement once the Agreement has been accepted, approved and adopted by
23 the Board, the IC shall be authorized to immediately suspend Respondent's license to practice
24 medicine in Nevada pending an Order to Show Cause Hearing, which will be duly noticed.
25 Failure to comply with the terms of this Agreement, including failure to pay any fines, costs,
26 expenses or fees owed to the Board, is a failure to comply with an order of the Board, which may
27 result in additional disciplinary action being taken against Respondent. NRS 630.3065(2)(a).

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1 Further, Respondent's failure to remit payment to the Board for monies agreed to be paid as a
2 condition of this Agreement may subject Respondent to civil collection efforts.

3
4 DATED this 15 day of August, 2023.

5 INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
6 NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL
7 EXAMINERS

8 By: Deonne E. Contine
9 DEONNE E. CONTINE
10 General Counsel
11 9600 Gateway Drive
12 Reno, NV 89521
13 Tel: (775) 688-2559
14 Email: dcontine@medboard.nv.gov
15 *Attorney for the Investigative Committee*

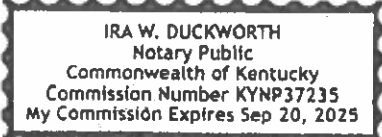
16 **AGREED TO AND UNDERSTOOD.**

17 DATED this 15 day of August, 2023

18 By: Lora Leigh Watson
19 LORA LEIGH WATSON, RRT
20 *Nevada License No. RC137*

21 SUBSCRIBED and SWORN to before me by
22 Lora Leigh Watson, RRT this 15th day of
23 August, 2023.

24 Ira W. Duckworth
25 NOTARY PUBLIC

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ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, the foregoing Settlement Agreement (Case No. 23-24104-1) was approved and accepted by the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners on the 15th day of September, 2023.

DATED this 15th day of September, 2023.

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:



AURY NAGY, M.D.
Board President