

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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No. 2017-254

**In The Matter Of**

**KATHY RENEE WILLIS, LRT**  
*(Certificate No. RRT.200196*

**CONSENT ORDER**  
**FOR REPRIMAND**

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Kathy Renee Willis ("Ms. Willis"), is a respiratory therapist who was previously licensed by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") as a licensed respiratory therapist (LRT) to practice in this state. Her license lapsed in 2017. Prior to the expiration of her license the Board received information from another state agency which required an explanation from Ms. Willis. Multiple attempts by Board investigators were made in writing and by phone to obtain Ms. Willis' explanation to no avail. This matter is now before the Board in connection with her October 2019 application for reinstatement of her license to practice respiratory care in Louisiana.

Investigation of the captioned matter was assigned to Lawrence H. Cresswell, III, DO, JD, Investigating Officer (the "I/O") for the Board. In connection with this matter, Ms. Willis cooperated with the investigation, met with the I/O, and provided an adequate explanation of information previously requested; however, she was unable to provide an adequate explanation for not responding to the Board's multiple inquiries in 2017.

While it appears to the I/O that Ms. Willis is a conscientious and well-trained respiratory therapist, the I/O's review and analysis of the matter confirms to his satisfaction that the actions identified hereinabove may implicate one or more violations of the Louisiana Respiratory Therapy Practice Act ("Act").<sup>1</sup>

By her subscription hereto, Ms. Willis acknowledges the substantial accuracy of the foregoing information and that such information and acknowledgement could provide the I/O with probable cause to pursue formal administrative proceedings for violation of the Act, constituting sufficient cause to deny or impose such conditions on her request for

<sup>1</sup>Pursuant to the Louisiana Respiratory Therapy Practice Act, La. Rev. Stat. §37:3358A, the Board may take action against the license of a respiratory therapist as a result of *unprofessional conduct*, which includes: '(2) [V]iolating the code of ethics adopted and published by the American Association for Respiratory Therapy (AARC). The AARC code of ethics provides that respiratory therapists shall: '[D]emonstrate behavior that reflects integrity, supports objectivity, and fosters trust in the profession and its professionals.'

reinstatement of her license to practice as a respiratory therapist in this state as the Board may determine appropriate. In consideration of the foregoing, and on the recommendation of the I/O respecting the pending investigation, the Board has concluded that its responsibility to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this state against the unprofessional, unqualified and unsafe practice of respiratory therapy, La. Rev. Stat. §37:3351, *et seq.*, will be effectively served by the entry of the Order set forth hereinafter, by consent.

Recognizing her right to have notice of allegations and charges asserted against her, to administrative adjudication of such charges, at which time she would be entitled to be represented by legal counsel, to call witnesses and to present evidence on her own behalf in defense or in mitigation of the charges made and to a decision thereon by the Board based upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law, pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §§49:951 *et. seq.*, Ms. Willis, nonetheless, hereby waives her right to notice of charges and formal adjudication and pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §49:955(D) consents to the entry of the Order set forth hereinafter. Ms. Willis further acknowledges and waives any right to which she may be entitled pursuant to the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, La. Rev. Stat. §49:951 *et. seq.*, or which otherwise may be afforded to her by law to contest her agreement to or the force and effect of this document in any court relating to the matters referred to herein. By her subscription hereto Ms. Willis also hereby authorizes the I/O designated by the Board with respect hereto to present this Consent Order to the Board for its consideration and to fully disclose to and discuss with the Board the nature and results of the investigation and she waives any objection to such disclosures under La. Rev. Stat. §49:960. Ms. Willis expressly acknowledges that the disclosure of information to the Board by the I/O shall be without prejudice to the I/O's authority to file a formal Administrative Complaint against her or to the Board's capacity to adjudicate such Complaint should the Board decline to approve this Consent Order.

Based upon the information provided, and upon the recommendation of the I/O assigned to this matter, the Board has concluded that its responsibility to insure the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this state, pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. §37:3351, will be effectively served by entry of the Order set forth hereinafter, by consent. Accordingly, in consideration of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by La. Rev. Stat. §37:3358 and La. Rev. Stat. §49:955(D);

**IT IS ORDERED** that the license of Kathy Renee Willis to practice respiratory therapy in the state of Louisiana, as evidenced by Certificate No. LRT.200196, is hereby reinstated.

**IT FURTHER IS ORDERED** that Kathy Renee Willis, LRT is hereby *Reprimanded* for the conduct identified hereinabove.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that within six (6) months from the effective date of this Order that Kathy Renee Willis, LRT, shall pay the Board a fine in the amount of five hundred (\$500.00) dollars.


**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that any violation of this Order by Kathy Renee Willis shall, upon proof of such violation, be deemed adequate and sufficient cause for such further action against her license to practice as a licensed respiratory therapist in this state as the Board may deem appropriate, as if such violation were enumerated among the causes provided in La. Rev. Stat. §37:3358.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that this Consent Order shall be, and shall be deemed to be, a public record.

Signed at New Orleans, Louisiana, and effective this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020.

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF  
MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

BY:

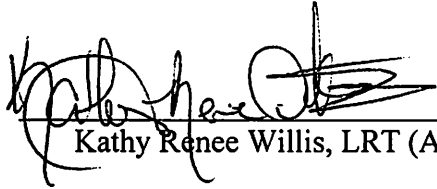
  
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RODERICK V. CLARK, M.D., MBA.  
*President*

*Acknowledgement and Consent  
on Following Page*

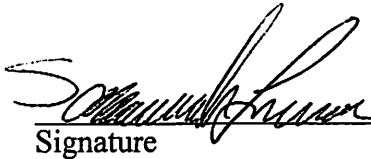
STATE OF LOUISIANA  
PARISH OF CADDO

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT  
AND CONSENT**

I, KATHY RENEE WILLIS, hereby acknowledge that I have had the opportunity to seek the advice and guidance of legal counsel with respect to this Consent Order and that all of its terms and conditions have been fully explained to me and/or that I fully understand them. I further acknowledge that I approve, accept and consent to the entry of the above and foregoing Order without duress and of my own free will and accord, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of JANUARY, 2020.

  
Kathy Renee Willis, LRT (Applicant)

WITNESSES:

  
Signature

  
Signature

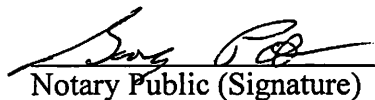
Savannah Lemme  
Printed Name

RANDY COLLINS  
Printed Name

1651 E 70<sup>th</sup> St Shreveport, LA 71105  
Address

1518 GENTILLY SHREVEPORT LA 71105  
Address

Sworn to and subscribed before me at SHREVEPORT, Louisiana this 27<sup>th</sup> day of JANUARY, 2020, in the presence of the two stated witnesses.

  
Notary Public (Signature)

Notary Public (Printed)

