

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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In the Matter of:

No. 18-I-730

KELLY COOPER HARMON, RRT
(Certificate No. RRT.200237)
Respondent

**INTERIM
CONSENT ORDER**

This matter is before the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") in connection with an ongoing investigation conducted by the Investigating Officer of the Board regarding Kelly Cooper Harmon, RRT, ("Ms. Harmon"), who at all pertinent times has been licensed and engaged in practice as a respiratory therapist in and around New Orleans, Louisiana. Apparently, reliable information gathered to date indicates that Ms. Harmon has suffered a return to chemical dependency for which her evaluating physician has recommended inpatient treatment. However, Ms. Harmon has advised that she is unable to comply with the recommendation and is agreeable to the interim suspension of her license.

Predicated upon the information outlined above, the Investigating Officer has determined that reasonable cause exists for recommending that a formal Administrative Complaint be filed against Ms. Harmon, charging her with violation of the Louisiana Respiratory Therapy Practice Act and the Board's Rules and Regulations pertaining to Respiratory Therapists.¹

As evidenced by her subscription hereto, Ms. Harmon acknowledges the right to have written notification of any charges that may be asserted, as well as the right to have evidence of such charges asserted during an administrative hearing at which time she will be entitled to be represented by legal counsel, to call witnesses and to present evidence 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.* While maintaining such rights Ms. Harmon, nonetheless, hereby consents to the indefinite suspension of her license to practice respiratory therapy in this state, with reinstatement thereof subject to the terms and conditions of this Order. By her subscription hereto, Ms. Harmon authorizes the Investigating Officer designated by the Board with respect hereto to present this

¹ La. Rev. Stat. §37:3358(A) provides that the board may deny, refuse to renew a license, may suspend, revoke, or impose probationary conditions on a license if the licensee or applicant for license has been found guilty of unprofessional conduct which has endangered or is likely to endanger the health, welfare, or safety of the public. Such unprofessional conduct shall include:

(7) 'Habitual or recurring abuse of drugs, including alcohol, which affect the central nervous system and which are capable of inducing physiological or psychological dependence:'

(15) 'Inability to practice respiratory therapy with reasonable competence, skill, or safety to patients because of mental or physical illness, condition, or deficiency, including but not limited to deterioration through the aging process or excessive use or abuse of drugs, including alcohol.'

Interim Consent Order to the Board for its consideration and to fully discuss with and disclose to the Board the nature and extent of such charges and she waives any objection to such disclosures under La. Rev. Stat. §49:960. Ms. Harmon expressly acknowledges that disclosure of such information to the Board by the Investigating Officer shall be without prejudice to the Investigating Officer's authority to prosecute the abovementioned charges and/or any additional administrative charges that may be filed in this matter or to the Board's capacity to adjudicate such charges.

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 Kelly Cooper Harmon, to engage in the practice of respiratory therapy in the State of Louisiana, as evidenced by Certificate No. CRT.200237, be and the same is hereby, effective as of the date hereof, **INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Kelly Cooper Harmon, RRT, shall not practice respiratory therapy in any form in the state of Louisiana until and unless the Board issues and serves a written decision reinstating her license to practice following: (1) a meeting at the Board office with the Director of Investigations or designee; **and** (2) receipt of satisfactory documentation that Ms. Harmon has successfully completed all recommendations by the Director of Investigations or designee to demonstrate to the Board that she is competent to return to the practice of respiratory therapy with skill and safety; **and** (3) the conclusion of the pending investigation by administrative hearing and final decision of the Board on any charges that may be filed in these proceedings including, but not limited to, those identified in this Order; or alternatively, by the Board's acceptance of a Consent Order or other disposition of the pending investigation.

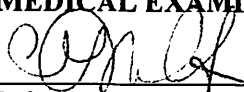
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any violation or failure of strict compliance with any of the terms, conditions or restrictions set forth by this Order by Ms. Harmon shall be deemed adequate and sufficient cause, upon proof of such violation or failure, for the revocation and cancellation of Ms. Harmon's license to practice respiratory therapy in the state of Louisiana or for such other action as the Board may deem appropriate, as if such violations were enumerated among the causes provided in La. Rev. Stat. §37:3358.

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

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 18th day of March, 2019.

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

By:


CHRISTY L. VALENTINE, M.D.
President

In the Matter of:
Kelly Cooper Harmon, RRT

INTERIM
CONSENT ORDER

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STATE OF Louisiana

PARISH/COUNTY OF Orleans

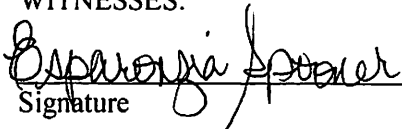
**ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSENT**

I, KELLY COOPER HARMON, RRT, 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 entry of the above and foregoing Order without duress and of my own free will and accord, this 11 day of February 2019.



KELLY COOPER HARMON, RRT

WITNESSES:



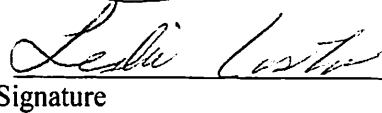
Signature

Esparonzia Spooner

Printed Name

630 Camp St., NOLA 70130

Address



Signature


Leslie Castro

Printed Name

630 Camp St. N.O. La. 70130

Address

Sworn to and subscribed before me at New Orleans Louisiana, this 11 day of February 2019, in the presence of the two stated witnesses.



Notary Public

Print name Jennifer M. Stolier

Bar/Notary No.: 23240

JENNIFER MARTIN STOLIER
NOTARY PUBLIC
ID # 69507
State of Louisiana
Bar # 28240
My Commission is issued for Life.