

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BOARD OF NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS
CONCORD, NH 03301**

In the Matter of:
Steven Woods, NHA
License #3469

Docket# 23-NUH-001

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

In order to avoid the delay and expense of further proceedings and to promote the best interests of the public and the practice of nursing home administration, the New Hampshire Board of Nursing Home Administrators (“Board”) and Steven Woods (“Respondent”), a Nursing Home Administrator licensed by the Board, do hereby stipulate and agree to resolve certain allegations of alleged violations of rules and laws regulating the profession now pending before the Board in accordance with the following terms and conditions:

1. Pursuant to RSA 151-A:4; RSA 151-A:11, RSA 541-A and Board of Nursing Home Administrators Administrative Rule (“Nuh”) 207 and 402, the Board has jurisdiction to investigate and adjudicate allegations of professional misconduct committed by the Board’s licensees.
2. Pursuant to RSA 310-A:1-k, III and Nuh 402.02, the Board may, at any time, dispose of such allegations by settlement and without commencing a disciplinary hearing.
3. The Board granted Respondent license number 3469 to practice as a Nursing Home Administrator in the state of New Hampshire which expires on 12/31/2024. At all times relevant, Respondent held an active license.

4. In response to a complaint received on 10/26/2022 alleging negligence resulting in inadequate care for residents who required emergency medical treatment at Concord Hospital, the Board issued an ex parte Order of Emergency Suspension on 10/27/2022. After a hearing on the emergency suspension, by order dated November 14, 2022, the Board vacated the emergency suspension based upon a finding that allowing the Licensee to remain in practice pending a full adjudication of the matter did not pose a threat to public health, safety, or welfare. In response to additional complaints received on or before 02/14/2023 alleging inadequate care for residents due to continued admission of residents while allegedly failing to provide adequate staffing, support and oversight, the Board issued an Order of Emergency Suspension on 02/17/2023. On 02/23/2023, Respondent was granted a requested continuance of the Emergency Suspension Hearing during which the Respondent agreed to remain suspended while OPLC Enforcement completed its investigation of the Respondent's conduct related to the various complaints.
5. For settlement purposes, and to avoid the delay and expense of further proceedings, Respondent stipulates to the following facts:
 - A. At all times relevant, Respondent held Nursing Home Administrator license #3469.
 - B. At all times relevant, Respondent was the Nursing Home Administrator at Pleasant View Center ("PVC") in Concord, N.H.
 - C. On 08/15/2022, a resident signed herself out and her absence was not discovered for several hours. She was later found outside where she had experienced an unwitnessed fall. It was not until after this event that a written policy was adopted concerning resident sign-outs.

- D. Between the dates 08/24/2022 and 10/12/2022, multiple residents were emergently transported to Concord Hospital by the Concord Fire Department who documented concerning patient health and living conditions.
- E. Despite expressed concerns from staff during January 2023, Respondent made a judgment not to place a temporary hold on accepting new admissions until recommended to do so after a site visit by Department of Health and Human Services Facilities on 02/15/2023.
6. The Board finds that Respondent committed the acts described above and concludes that, by engaging in such conduct, Respondent violated NH RSA 151-A:11, I. (a).
7. Respondent acknowledges that the allegations and stipulated facts set forth in paragraph 5 constitute grounds for the Board to impose disciplinary sanctions against Respondent's license to practice as a Nursing Home Administrator in the State of New Hampshire.
8. WHEREFORE, Respondent consents to the Board imposing the following discipline, pursuant to RSA 151-A:11, I, RSA 310-A: and Nuh 402:
- A. Respondent is **SUSPENDED** with time served for the period beginning on 02/17/2023 and ending on the Effective Date of this Settlement Agreement as further defined below ("Effective Date"). Respondent's license shall be returned to active status as of the Effective Date.
- B. Within ninety (90) days of the Effective Date, the Respondent shall complete **twenty (20) hours of CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES** to include topics of employee and staffing management, leadership, and patient neglect. These hours shall be in addition to the continuing education required under Board rules and statutes. Continuing education hours completed on or after the date of

the original complaint that have not been previously submitted in fulfillment of continuing education requirements for purposes of renewal may be submitted in fulfillment of this term. The Respondent shall, within 10 days of completion, provide the Board with certificate(s) of completion for completed hours, the course syllabus or course materials which demonstrates the course provided instruction in the above stated topics, and proof that the submitted hours have not previously been submitted for purpose of renewal.

- C. Respondent is assessed an **ADMINISTRATIVE FINE** in the amount of One Thousand dollars (\$1,000.00). Respondent shall pay this fine in full within forty-five (45) days of the Effective Date by delivering a money order or bank check, made payable to "Treasurer, State of New Hampshire," to the Board's office at 7 Eagle Square, Concord, New Hampshire, 03301. No separate invoice shall issue. Payment shall include a copy of this *Settlement Agreement* or a note including the docket number and indicating the payment is made in compliance with a settlement agreement with the Board.
- D. Within ten (10) days of the Effective Date, Respondent shall furnish a copy of the *Settlement Agreement* to any current employer for whom Respondent performs services as a licensee or work which requires education, training, or degree in the profession or directly or indirectly involves practice as a licensee, and to any agency or authority which licenses, certifies or credentials Nursing Home Administrators, with which Respondent is presently affiliated.

9. Respondent shall bear all costs required by this *Settlement Agreement* and shall be responsible for ensuring all payments are made, but Respondent shall be permitted to share such costs with third parties.
10. Respondent's breach of any terms or conditions of this *Settlement Agreement* shall constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to RSA 151-A:11(b), and a separate and sufficient basis for further disciplinary action by the Board.
11. The Board may consider Respondent's compliance with the terms and conditions herein in any subsequent proceeding before the Board regarding Respondents' license.
12. The Board agrees that in return for Respondent executing this *Settlement Agreement*, the Board will not proceed with the formal adjudicatory process based upon the alleged facts described herein and/or upon any received complaint(s) and/or open investigation(s) concerning the Respondent as of the Effective Date. However, the Board may consider this misconduct as evidence of a pattern of conduct in the event that similar misconduct is proven against Respondent in the future. Additionally, the Board may consider the fact that discipline was imposed by this Settlement Agreement as a factor in determining appropriate discipline should any future misconduct be proven against Respondent in the future.
13. This *Settlement Agreement* shall become a permanent part of the Respondent's file, which is maintained by the Board as a public document.
14. Respondent voluntarily enters into and signs this *Settlement Agreement* and states that no promises or representations have been made other than those terms and conditions expressly stated herein.

15. Respondent understands that entering into this *Settlement Agreement* is a final act and not subject to reconsideration, judicial review, or appeal.
16. Respondent agrees to support the adoption of this agreement by the Board.
17. Respondent understands that this agreement is an adverse action against Respondent's license and will be reported to any other jurisdictions, if any, in which Respondent is licensed, or seeks to become licensed.
18. Respondent has had the opportunity to seek and obtain the advice of an attorney of his choosing in connection with his decision to enter into this *Settlement Agreement*.
19. Respondent is not under the influence of any drugs or alcohol at the time s/he signs this *Settlement Agreement*.
20. Respondent understands that the Board must review and accept the terms of this *Settlement Agreement*. If the Board rejects any portion, the entire *Settlement Agreement* shall be null and void. Respondent specifically waives any claims that any disclosures made to the Board during its review of this *Settlement Agreement* has prejudiced Respondent's right to a fair and impartial hearing in the future if this *Settlement Agreement* is not accepted by the Board.
21. Respondent certifies that he has read this document titled *Settlement Agreement*. Respondent understands that he has the right to a formal adjudicatory hearing concerning this matter and that at said hearing he would possess the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses, to call witnesses, to present evidence, to testify on his own behalf, to contest the allegations, to present oral argument, and to appeal to the courts. Further, Respondent fully understands the nature, quality and dimensions of these rights.

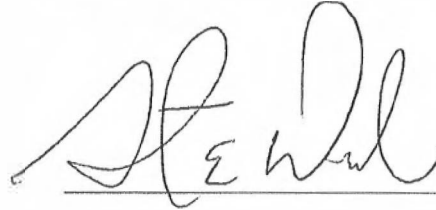
Respondent understands that by signing this *Settlement Agreement*, he waives these rights as they pertain to the misconduct described herein.

22. This Settlement Agreement shall take effect as an Order of the Board on the date it is signed by an authorized representative of the Board and shall become final after 30 days pursuant to Plc 205.04.

[Signatures on next page.]

FOR RESPONDENT

Dated: JUNE 14, 2023



Steven Woods, NHA,
Respondent

FOR THE BOARD

Accepted by the Board of Nursing Home Administrators on this 11th day
of July, 2023 ("Effective Date").

Date: 7/11/2023



(Signature)

Michael R. Gianunzio

Authorized Representative of the
NH Board of Nursing Home Administrators