THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES **DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH** STATE OF NEBRASKA

STATE OF NEBRASKA ex rel., JON BRUNING, Attorney General, Plaintiff,))) H09-3872
v. GEORGE PASKEWITZ, M.D., Defendant.) ORDER ON AGREED SETTLEMENT))))
Defendant.	'

A proposed Agreed Settlement was filed with the Department on October 26, 2009.

ORDER

- 1. The Agreed Settlement is adopted, attached hereto and incorporated by reference.
- 2. The facts as set out in the petition are taken as true and adopted herein.
- 3. The parties shall comply with all of the terms of the Agreed Settlement.

DATED this 3 day of November Joann Schaefer, M.D. Chief Medical Officer

> Director, Division of Public Health Department of Health and Human Services

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
COMES NOW the undersigned and certifies that on the 3 day of Movember, 2009 a copy of the foregoing ORDER ON AGREED SETTLEMENT was sent by certified United States mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested to George Paskewitz, 319 Blue River Lodge, Circle West #49, Crete, NE 68333 and by interagency mail to Susan M. Ugai, Assistant Attorney General, 2115 State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Ashlea Cedrone

DHHS Legal and Regulatory Services

PO Box 98914

Lincoln, NE 68509-8914

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P: 402-471-7237 F: 402-742-2376

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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAL DIVISION OF PU STATE OF N	JBLIC HEALTH OCT 2 6 2009
STATE OF NEBRASKA, ex rel. JON BRUNING, Attorney General,	DHHS Legal and Regulatory Services
Plaintiff,)
v.) AGREED SETTLEMENT
GEORGE PASKEWITZ, M.D.,)
Defendant.))

The Plaintiff and the Defendant, George Paskewitz, M.D., in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements contained herein, agree as follows:

- 1. At all times relevant herein, the Defendant, George Paskewitz, M.D., has been the holder of license # 18851 issued by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health ("Department") to practice medicine.
- The Defendant acknowledges receipt of a copy of the Petition for Disciplinary
 Action and waives the need for further service of the Petition upon him.
- 3. Before disciplinary measures may be taken against the Defendant's license, the Defendant is entitled to a hearing as provided by law. The Defendant waives the right to a hearing. The Defendant waives any right to judicial review of an order by the Department's Chief Medical Officer which approves the terms of this Agreed Settlement.
- 4. No coercion, threats, or promises, other than those stated herein, were made to the Defendant to induce her to enter into this Agreed Settlement.
- The Defendant acknowledges that he has read the Petition for Disciplinary
 Action filed by the Attorney General's Office. The Defendant admits the allegations of the
 Petition for Disciplinary Action.

- 6. The Defendant and the Plaintiff agree that the Chief Medical Officer enter a final disciplinary order finding the allegations of the Petition for Disciplinary Action are true.
- 7. The Plaintiff and the Defendant consent to the Chief Medical Officer entering a disciplinary order which censures the Defendant's license.
- 8. The Plaintiff and the Defendant consent to the Chief Medical Officer entering a disciplinary order which imposes a civil penalty in the amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00). The civil penalty shall be payable in full within six (6) months from the date the Chief Medical Officer enters a disciplinary order in accordance with this Agreed Settlement. In the event the Defendant fails to pay the civil penalty in full by the stated deadline, the Chief Medical Officer may summarily suspend the Defendant's license, which suspension shall remain in effect until the civil penalty is paid in full.
- 9. The Plaintiff and the Defendant consent to the Chief Medical Officer entering a disciplinary order requiring the Defendant to complete a Board pre-approved Professional Boundaries course within six months from the date the Chief Medical Officer enters a disciplinary order in accordance with this Agreed Settlement. The entire cost of and all expenses related to such course shall be paid by Defendant. Defendant shall provide written verification of successful completion of the Professional Boundaries course to the Department.
- 10. The Attorney General's Office has given notice of this Agreed Settlement to the Board of Medicine and Surgery and has received their input in accordance with NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 38-190 (Reissue 2008) and 71-161.03 (Reissue 2003).

If this Agreed Settlement is not approved by the Chief Medical Officer, this 11. Agreed Settlement shall become null and void and will not be admissible for any purpose at any hearing that may be held on this matter.

AGREED TO:

askewitz, M.D. Defendant |

State of Nebraska

) ss.

Acknowledged before me by George Paskewitz, M.D., on this <u>19</u> day of

2009.

GENERAL NOTARY-State of Nebraska JO R. LISEC My Comm. Exp. April 1, 2012

STATE OF NEBRASKA, ex rel. JON BRUNING, Attorney General, Plaintiff,

BY:

JON BRUNING, #20351

Attorney General

BY:

Súsan M. Ugai, #16677/ **Assistant Attorney General**

2115 State Capitol

Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

(402) 471-9658

Attorneys for Plaintiff.

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH STATE OF NEBRASKA STATE OF NEBRASKA, ex rel. JON BRUNING, Attorney General, Plaintiff, PETITION FOR Vs. DHHS Legal and Regulatory Services DHHS Legal and Regulatory Services DHHS DHHS DHHS Legal and Regulatory Services DHHS DHHS DHHS Legal and Regulatory Services DHHS DHHS DHHS DHHS Legal and Regulatory Services DHHS DHHS DHHS DHHS Legal and Regulatory Services DHHS DHHS DHHS Legal and Regulatory Services

The Plaintiff alleges as follows:

Defendant.

ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL CAUSES OF ACTION

- 1. Jurisdiction is based on NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 38-183, 38-184, 38-186 (Reissue 2008), and 71-150 (Reissue 2003).
- 2. At all times relevant herein, the Defendant, George Paskewitz, M.D., has been the holder of license #18851 which was issued by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health ("Department") for his practice as a medical doctor.
- 3. The Department is the agency of the State of Nebraska authorized to enforce the laws of Nebraska regulating the practice of medicine.
- 4. The Nebraska Board of Medicine and Surgery considered the investigation of this matter and made its recommendation to the Attorney General, which recommendation has been considered. Such matters are privileged pursuant to NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 38-1,105, 38-1,106 (Reissue 2008), 71-168.01(7) and 71-168.01(8) (Reissue 2003).

5. Defendant treated patient M.H. from 08/15/2006 to 01/31/2008. Defendant took M.H. out for meals, and M.H. performed handyman work for Defendant. Defendant also took M.H. on a trip to Las Vegas August 6 through August 9, 2007.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

- 6. Paragraphs 1 through 5 are incorporated herein by reference.
- 7. NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 38-178(23) (Reissue 2008) and 71-147(10) (2006 Cum. Supp.) provide that a professional license may be disciplined, revoked, or suspended for unprofessional conduct.
- 8. Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 38-178(15), 38-179(15) (Reissue 2008) and 71-148(22) (Reissue 2003) define unprofessional conduct as such other acts as may be defined in rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the board of examiners in the profession of the applicant, licensee, certificate holder or registrant with the approval of the Department.
- 9. Title 172 Chapter 88-013.16 Regulations Governing the Practice of Medicine and Surgery defines unprofessional conduct as exercising influence on the patient in such a manner as to exploit the patient for the financial gain of the licensee or of a third party, which includes, but is not limited to, the promotion or sale of services, goods, or drugs.
- 10. Title 172 Chapter 88-013.21 Regulations Governing the Practice of Medicine and Surgery defines unprofessional conduct as any conduct or practice outside the normal standard of care in the State of Nebraska which is or might be harmful or dangerous to the health of the patient or the public.
- 11. The Principles of Medical Ethics with Annotations Especially Applicable to Psychiatry, Section 1, 2006 Edition, states a psychiatrist shall not gratify his or her own

needs by exploiting the patient. The psychiatrist shall be ever vigilant about the impact that his or her conduct has upon the boundaries of the doctor-patient relationship, and thus upon the well-being of the patient.

12. Defendant's conduct with patient M.H. violated professional boundaries, is unprofessional conduct, and is grounds for discipline.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

- 13. Paragraphs 1 through 12 are incorporated herein by reference.
- 14. Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 38-178(6) (Reissue 2008) and 71-147(5) (2006 Cum. Supp.) provide that a professional license may be disciplined, revoked, or suspended for practice of the profession in a pattern of negligent conduct in performing the duties of the profession.
- 15. Defendant's conduct shows a pattern of negligent conduct and is grounds for discipline.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff prays that the Chief Medical Officer set this matter for hearing, order appropriate disciplinary action pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 38-183 (Reissue 2008) and 71-155 (Reissue 2003), and tax the costs of this action to the Defendant.

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STATE OF NEBRASKA ex rel. JON BRUNING, Attorney General, Plaintiff,

BY: JON BRUNING, #20351

Attorney General

BY:

Susan M. Ugai, #16677 Assistant Attorney General

2115 State Capitol Lincoln, NE 68509 (402) 471-2682

Attorneys for the Plaintiff.

34-850-14