BEFORE THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT

AGAINST

DANA FORTE, D.O., Lic. # 649

RESPONDENT.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

I. PARTIES

This Settlement Agreement and Order ("Agreement and Order") is made by and

between Lisa Miller-Roche, Esq., Investigative Board Member ("Ms. Miller-Roche" or

"Investigative Board Member") for the Nevada State Board of Osteopathic Medicine ("the

Board") through the Board's Counsel/Executive Director, Dianna Hegeduis, Esq., and Dana

M. Forte, D.O. ("Dr. Forte") (collectively referred to as "the Parties").

II. RECITALS

As a preamble to this Agreement, the Parties agree to the following:

A. WHEREAS, the Board, through Investigative Board Member Miller-Roche, ascertained

certain information regarding two prior lawsuits filed against Dr. Forte. The information

was ascertained as a result of the Board's staff due diligence in investigating its

applicants/licensees.

B. WHEREAS, the Investigative Board Member alleges that Dr. Forte failed to timely

report lawsuits being filed by "C.S." and "Z.D." as well as the settlement-resolution of the

same; and such failures are violations of NRS 633.527. Dr. Forte alleges that such

information was either called into the Board's office or mailed to the Board's offices.

The insurance company did notify the Board of the one lawsuit being settled, i.e., the

lawsuit filed by "C.S." The resolution of that matter, involving "C.S.," was not reported

by Dr. Forte herself on the renewal application for 2009. On the 2007 renewal

application, Dr. Forte did state that one case had settled, presumably, the "Z.D." matter

although such information was not attached to the renewal application.

C. NRS 633.527(1) states that an "osteopathic physician shall report to the Board: (a) any

action for malpractice against the osteopathic physician not later than 45 days after the

osteopathic physician receives service of a summons and complaint for the action;

(b) any claim for malpractice against the osteopathic physician that is submitted to

arbitration or mediation not later than 45 days after the claim is submitted to arbitration

or mediation; (c) any settlement, award, judgment or other disposition or any action or

claim described in paragraphs (a) or (b) not later than 45 days after the settlement,
award, judgment or other disposition; and (d) any sanctions imposed against the
osteopathic physician that are reportable to the National Practitioner Data Bank not
later than 45 days after the sanctions are imposed. NRS 633.527(2) states that should
the Board find “that an osteopathic physician has violated any provision of this section,
the Board may impose a fine of not more than $5,000 against the osteopathic
physician for each violation, in addition to any other fines or penalties permitted
by law.” (Emphasis added.) This statute was added to the law in 2003. By the use of
the word “shall” by the Nevada State Legislature in this statute, the Legislature
intended to mandatorily require all osteopathic physicians to report any of the four (4)
events mentioned in the statute.

D. NRS 633.131(1) defines “unprofessional conduct” as including “willfully making a false
... statement ... in applying for a license to practice osteopathic medicine or in
applying for renewal of a license to practice osteopathic medicine.” Pursuant to NRS
633.511(1), “unprofessional conduct” is a ground for initiating a formal disciplinary
proceeding; and such discipline may include public reprimands, the suspension of the
license to practice osteopathic medicine in the State of Nevada, and even the
revocation of the license to practice osteopathic medicine in the State of Nevada.

E. NRS 622.400(1) states that a “regulatory body [such as this Board] may recover from a
person reasonable attorney’s fees and costs that are incurred by the regulatory body
as part of its investigative, administrative and disciplinary proceedings against the
person if the regulatory body” either enters a final order or enters into a settlement
agreement.

F. WHEREAS, the parties have agreed to settle this matter, rather than requiring the
Board to file a formal disciplinary complaint.

G. WHEREAS, the parties understand that this Agreement will be signed by the
respective parties and will then be offered to the Board for the entire Board’s approval
at the next Board meeting, with the recommendation of the Investigating Board
Member that this matter be settled. The Agreement shall not become effective until it
has been approved by a majority of the Board and endorsed by a representative
member of the Board.

H. WHEREAS, Dr. Forte understands that the Board is free to accept or reject this
Agreement and, if rejected by the Board, a formal disciplinary complaint will be filed
and a hearing scheduled on the same. The Board members who review this matter for
approval of this Agreement may be the same members who ultimately hear the
disciplinary complaint if this Agreement is not approved by the Board. Dr. Forte hereby
agrees to waive any rights she might have to challenge the impartiality of the Board to
hear the disciplinary complaint, based on prior knowledge obtained by the Board
through consideration of this Agreement, if after review by the Board, this Agreement is
rejected. Furthermore, if the Board does not accept the Agreement, it shall be regarded
as null and void.

I. WHEREAS, Dr. Forte acknowledges that the Board will retain jurisdiction over this
matter until all terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement and Order have been
met to the satisfaction of the Board.

J. WHEREAS, Dr. Forte acknowledges that the Board had a reasonable basis to believe
that the statutes and/or regulations regulating the practice of Osteopathic Medicine in
the State of Nevada may have been violated.

K. WHEREAS, in order to resolve the matter prior to it becoming a disciplinary proceeding
and to save further costs and expenses, Dr. Forte has elected to enter into this
Agreement to resolve this matter, and this matter only.
L. WHEREAS, Dr. Forte acknowledges that once accepted by the Board, this Agreement and all associated documentation become a matter of public record (with the exception of medical information related to any patient).

M. WHEREAS, Dr. Forte has had the opportunity to obtain the advice from competent counsel of his choice concerning the terms and conditions of this Agreement and the execution thereof. No coercion has been exerted upon Dr. Forte, nor have any promises been made other than those reflected in this Agreement. Dr. Forte freely and voluntarily entered into this agreement, motivated only by a desire to resolve the issues addressed herein. Dr. Forte has executed this Agreement only after a careful reading of it and a full understanding of all its terms.

N. WHEREAS, Dr. Forte is fully aware of her rights to contest the charges pending against her. These rights include: representation by an attorney at her own expense, the right to a public hearing on any charges or allegations filed, the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses called to testify against her, the right to present evidence on her own behalf, the right to compulsory process to secure the attendance of such witnesses, the right to testify on her own behalf, the right to receive written findings of fact and conclusions of law supporting the decision on the merits of the complaint and the right to obtain judicial review of the Board's decision. Should the Board accept this Agreement, Dr. Forte voluntarily waives these rights.

O. WHEREAS, this Agreement and Order shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Nevada.

P. WHEREAS, this Agreement and Order contains a complete description of the agreement between the parties and it supersedes any previous agreements between the parties. All material representations, understandings and promises of the parties are contained in this Agreement. Any modifications must be set forth in writing, signed by all the parties, and approved by the Board.

III. TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT

A. Dr. Forte acknowledges that the allegations regarding failure to timely report certain events and the inaccurate-incomplete renewal applications, if true, are violations of NRS chapter 633 and discipline would be permissible under Nevada law. In exchange for the Board not pursuing an administrative action and Dr. Forte not pursuing subsequent reviews by the appropriate appellate Courts, the parties have agreed to resolve the current matter, and only this matter. Dr. Forte will henceforth insure that all lawsuits involving herself will be timely and accurately reported to the Board, and the failure to do so may result in the Board bringing a disciplinary action against the osteopathic medical license issued by the Board to Dr. Forte. If any lawsuit is not reported to the Board, such will be in violation of this agreement as well as the applicable statutes.

B. Dr. Forte agrees to pay the sum of One Thousand Dollars ($1,000.00) as the fine imposed for having violated NRS 633.527(1) for the failure to timely report the filing/service/settlement of the lawsuits and the incomplete-inaccurate information contained within the renewal applications. This sum includes all fees and costs incurred by the Board up to and including the approval of this settlement agreement by the Board at its next scheduled board meeting pursuant to NAC 633.470(2)(b)(6). Such amount shall be payable in the amount of $250.00 per month beginning on the 15th day of August, 2009, and such amount shall continue to be due thereafter on the 15th day of each month, until the full amount of One Thousand Dollars ($1,000.00) is paid.

PAID IN FULL 7-29-09
C. Should Dr. Forte fail to satisfy and pay the indebtedness of $1,000.00 in a timely manner as discussed herein, Dr. Forte understands and agrees that she will be considered in default of this Agreement, and this agreement will be null and void, with the Respondent receiving credit for payments made to date. The Board may take whatever action it deems appropriate, including but not limited to reducing the balance to judgment pursuant to NRS chapter 353C.

D. The Respondent, Dr. Forte, agrees to bear her own fees and costs, including the fees and expenses of her own attorney(s) if applicable.

E. This Agreement and Order shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon each of the parties hereto and their respective heirs, personal representatives, assigns and successors in interest of each party.

F. This Agreement and Order shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Nevada.

G. This settlement agreement consists of six (6) pages and embodies the entire agreement between the Board and the osteopathic physician. It may not be altered, amended or modified without the express consent of the parties, and any subsequent alteration, amendment, or modification shall be in writing and subject to approval by the Board.

H. In consideration for the execution of this Agreement, Dr. Forte hereby releases and forever discharges the State of Nevada, the Board of Osteopathic Medicine, and the Nevada State Attorney General’s Office (as the Board’s counsel), and each of their representatives, investigators, and employees, in their individual and representative capacity (collectively the State of Nevada Agencies) from any and all manner of actions, causes of actions, suits, debts, judgments, executions, claims, and demands whatsoever known or unknown, in law and in equity, that she may have had, now has, may have had, or claim to have against any and all of the persons and entities named in this paragraph arising out of, or by reason of, the investigation of the allegations raised in this matter, including those noted in the administrative complaint on file herein, and other matters relating thereto.

I. Dr. Forte, for herself, her heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns, hereby indemnifies and holds harmless the State of Nevada, the Nevada State Board of Osteopathic Medicine, the Nevada Attorney General’s office and each of their members, agents and employees in their individual and representative capacities against any and all claims, suits, demands, actions, debts, damages, costs, charges, and expenses, including court costs and attorney’s fees against any persons or entities as well as all liability, losses, and damages of any nature whatsoever that the persons and entities named in this paragraph shall have or may at any time sustain or suffer by reason of this investigation, this disciplinary action, this settlement or its administration.

J. This document may be prepared in multiple counterparts. Each counterpart
whether it be originally typed, a carbon, photocopy, facsimile or other type of copy, shall be deemed an original hereof if executed by each of the Parties hereto.

DANA M. FORTE, D.O.

Osteopathic Physician
Dated: 7-27-09

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF
OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

BY: Lisa Miller-Roche, Esq.
Investigating Board Member
Dated: 7-27-09

Dianna Hegeduis, Executive Director -
Board Counsel
Dated: 7-29-09

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

On this the 27 day of July, 2009, the said DANA M. FORTE, D.O., personally appeared before me, a notary public, and signed the above document, freely and voluntarily, under no duress.

Valerie L. Maldonado
Notary Public

ORDER OF THE BOARD

IT IS SO ORDERED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that should Dr. Forte fail to comply with any terms or conditions of this Agreement, Dr. Forte will be in breach of this Agreement; and this Agreement will be null and void. The Board may take whatever action it deems appropriate, including but not limited to proceeding with the administrative action against Dr. Forte. Should this Agreement become null and void by Dr. Forte's failure to comply with terms or....
whether it be originally typed, a carbon, photocopy, facsimile or other type of copy, shall be deemed an original hereof if executed by each of the Parties hereto.

DANA M. FORTE, D.O.
Osteopathic Physician
Dated: 7-27-09

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE
By: Lisa Miller-Roche, Esq.
Investigating Board Member
Dated: 7-30-09

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

On this the 27 day of July, 2009, the said DANA M. FORTE, D.O., personally appeared before me, a notary public, and signed the above document, freely and voluntarily, under no duress.

Valerie L. Maldonado
Notary Public

ORDER OF THE BOARD

IT IS SO ORDERED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that should Dr. Forte fail to comply with any terms or conditions of this Agreement, Dr. Forte will be in breach of this Agreement; and this
conditions of this Agreement, the Board may not only pursue an administrative action against
Dr. Forte, but the Board may also seek the maximum fees, fines, and costs.

DATED this 4th day of AUGUST, 2009.

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

BY: [Signature]

Dr. Daniel Curtis, Chairman/President of the Board