

1 BEFORE THE ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

2 In the Matter of

3 **BETHANIE E. THORNGREN, M.D.**

4 Holder of Residency Permit No. 67913
5 For the Practice of Allopathic Medicine
6 In the State of Arizona

Case No. MD-04-0903A

**CONSENT AGREEMENT FOR
LETTER OF REPRIMAND**

7 **CONSENT AGREEMENT**

8 By mutual agreement and understanding, between the Arizona Medical Board
9 ("Board") and Bethanie E. Thorngren, M.D. ("Respondent"), the parties agreed to the
10 following disposition of this matter.

11 1. Respondent acknowledges that she has read and understands this Consent
12 Agreement and the stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order ("Consent
13 Agreement"). Respondent acknowledges that she has the right to consult with legal
14 counsel regarding this matter and has done so or chooses not to do so.

15 2. Respondent understands that by entering into this Consent Agreement, she
16 voluntarily relinquishes any rights to a hearing or judicial review in state or federal court on
17 the matters alleged, or to challenge this Consent Agreement in its entirety as issued by the
18 Board, and waives any other cause of action related thereto or arising from said Consent
19 Agreement.

20 3. Respondent acknowledges and understands that this Consent Agreement is
21 not effective until approved by the Board and signed by its Executive Director.

22 4. All admissions made by Respondent are solely for final disposition of this
23 matter and any subsequent related administrative proceedings or civil litigation involving
24 the Board and Respondent. Therefore, said admissions by Respondent are not intended
25 or made for any other use, such as in the context of another state or federal government

1 regulatory agency proceeding, civil or criminal court proceeding, in the State of Arizona or
2 any other state or federal court.

3 5. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that, although the Consent
4 Agreement has not yet been accepted by the Board and issued by the Executive Director,
5 upon signing this agreement, and returning this document (or a copy thereof) to the
6 Board's Executive Director, Respondent may not revoke the acceptance of the Consent
7 Agreement. Respondent may not make any modifications to the document. Any
8 modifications to this original document are ineffective and void unless mutually approved
9 by the parties.

10 6. Respondent further understands that this Consent Agreement, once
11 approved and signed, is a public record that may be publicly disseminated as a formal
12 action of the Board and will be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank and to the
13 Arizona Medical Board's website.

14 7. If any part of the Consent Agreement is later declared void or otherwise
15 unenforceable, the remainder of the Consent Agreement in its entirety shall remain in force
16 and effect.

17
18
19 
20 BETHANIE E. THORNGREN, M.D.

DATED: 12-16-05

1 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

2 1. The Board is the duly constituted authority for the regulation and control of
3 the practice of allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.

4 2. Respondent is the holder of residency permit number 67913 for the practice
5 of allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.

6 3. The Board initiated case number MD-04-0903A after receiving notice from
7 Respondent that she was suspended from her residency program ("Residency Program")
8 for writing a fraudulent prescription for Vicodin.

9 4. Residency Program advised Respondent to enter treatment and placed
10 Respondent on 30 days suspension pending their investigation into allegations that
11 Respondent forged a prescription for controlled substances and diverted the medication
12 for her own use.

13 5. Police records revealed that Respondent was charged with attempting to
14 obtain a fraudulent prescription on June 27, 2003. The charge was dismissed on August
15 25, 2004 without prejudice under a diversion agreement.

16 6. On July 22, 2004 Respondent entered into a Board approved treatment
17 center where she was diagnosed with opiate dependency. She successfully completed the
18 treatment and was released with a good prognosis.

19 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

20 1. The Board possesses jurisdiction over the subject matter hereof and over
21 Respondent.

22 2. The conduct and circumstances described above constitute unprofessional
23 conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401 (27)(g) – ("[u]sing controlled substances except if
24 prescribed by another physician for use during a prescribed course of treatment.")
25

1 3. The conduct and circumstances described above constitute unprofessional
2 conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401 (27)(f) – (“[h]abitual intemperance in the use of
3 alcohol or habitual substance abuse.”)

4 4. The conduct and circumstances described above constitute unprofessional
5 conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401 (27)(j) – (“[p]rescribing, dispensing or administering
6 any controlled substance or prescription-only drug for other than accepted therapeutic
7 purposes.”)

8 **ORDER**

9 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 10 1. Respondent is issued a Letter of Reprimand for self prescribing.
11 2. This Order is the final disposition of case number MD-04-0903A.

12 DATED AND EFFECTIVE this 10th day of February, 2005.

13
14 (SEAL)



ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

15
16 By [Signature]
17 TIMOTHY C. MILLER, J.D.
Executive Director

18 ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed this
19 10th day of February, 2005 with:

20 Arizona Medical Board
21 9545 E. Doubletree Ranch Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85258

22 EXECUTED COPY of the foregoing mailed
this 10th day of February, 2005 to:

23 Bethanie E. Thorngren, M.D.
24 Address of Record

25 [Signature]
Investigational Review