BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF PHARMACY

In Re:

Elizabeth Lloyd Mills
(License No. 17989)

ORDER REINSTATING LICENSE
WITH CONDITIONS

THIS MATTER was heard on March 15, 2011 by the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy ("Board") located at 6015 Farrington Road, Suite 201, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, upon the request of Elizabeth Lloyd Mills ("Petitioner") for reinstatement of her license to practice pharmacy. Board members Chatler, McLaughlin, Dennis, Chesson, Minton and Marks heard this matter. After hearing the testimony of witnesses, adjudging the credibility of the witnesses, and receiving evidence, the Board makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Petitioner formerly held North Carolina license to practice pharmacy number 17989.

2. On November 3, 2009, Board staff received a report that petitioner was creating and dispensing fraudulent prescriptions for various Schedule III and IV controlled substances for her husband, Jay Mills. The report also stated that Petitioner created and dispensed fraudulent non-controlled substance prescriptions for herself and her husband.

3. When confronted by Board investigative staff, Petitioner admitted the alleged actions, admitted that this diversion activity took place over a one-year period, and surrendered her license to practice pharmacy on November 5, 2009.
4. In February 2010, Petitioner participated in a three-day evaluation at Pavilon Center for possible substance abuse and co-dependency issues. At the conclusion of that evaluation, she was deemed by Pavilon's medical staff not safe to practice pharmacy due to severe codependency issues. Pavilon recommended residential treatment and monitoring by NCPRN.

5. Petitioner did not initially follow Pavilon's recommendation.

6. After a period of reflection, Petitioner, at NCPRN's recommendation, completed a 30-day residential codependency treatment program at the The Bridge to Recovery in Bowling Green, KY in January 2011.

7. Petitioner and NCPRN testified to her progress in understanding and dealing with codependency issues, including group counseling and adherence to a "safety plan."

8. Petitioner testified that her husband was "medically tapered" off of the controlled substance that she diverted for him. Petitioner admitted, however, that her husband has not received any other treatment for his substance abuse problems.

9. Petitioner testified that with her current understanding of codependency issues, counseling, and safety plan, she believes that she will not be pressured into diverting controlled substances for her husband.

10. NCPRN advocated for Petitioner's return to practice with appropriate conditions.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Board, in its discretion, concludes that Petitioner can safely resume the practice of pharmacy with the conditions stated below.
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Petitioner’s license to practice pharmacy is REINSTATED, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

1. Petitioner shall not engage in the practice of pharmacy in any respect with regard to receiving, reviewing, or dispensing prescription drugs, or otherwise providing any pharmacy services to herself or any immediate family member.

2. Petitioner shall not be engaged in the practice of pharmacy at any pharmacy at any time that pharmacy dispenses a prescription or provides pharmacy services for Petitioner or an immediate family member. Petitioner may only be present in the pharmacy at such times as a customer or patient. She shall not be present in the secure pharmacy area at such times, even if other pharmacists or pharmacy employees are present.

3. Petitioner shall inform all employers of these conditions prior to commencing pharmacy practice.

4. Petitioner shall advise the Board promptly in writing of any change of address or change in practice status.

5. Petitioner shall not serve as pharmacist manager of any pharmacy.

6. Petitioner shall not serve as a preceptor of pharmacy students.

7. Petitioner may not be employed as a pharmacist more than 45 hours per week, on the average.

8. Petitioner shall be subject to unannounced drug screens to be performed at her expense by the Board or its agents, and shall supply urine, blood, hair,
nail, or any bodily fluid or tissue sample required for the screening. 
Results of the screening shall not disclose the presence of any controlled 
substances, prescription drug, or alcohol, which was not previously 
prescribed for Petitioner by a practitioner acting in the normal course of 
medical treatment of Petitioner.

9. Petitioner shall authorize any treating physician or other health-care 
provider to release Petitioner's medical records to the Board.

10. Prior to the commencement of the practice of pharmacy, Petitioner shall 
submit documentation of her current continuing education hours to the 
Board’s Executive Director.

11. Petitioner shall violate no laws governing the practice of pharmacy or the 
distribution of drugs.

12. Petitioner shall violate no rules or regulations of the Board.

12. If Petitioner fails to comply with any term or condition of this Order, 
Petitioner may be subject to additional disciplinary action by the Board.

This is the 15th day of March, 2011.

NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF PHARMACY

By: 
Jack W. Campbell IV 
Executive Director
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on March 21, 2011, I caused a copy of this Order Reinstating License With Conditions to be served on Petitioner by registered mail, return-receipt requested:

cc: Lloyd License File

Cindy Clark, North Carolina Pharmacist Recovery Network
1011 Pemberton Hill Road
Suite 202
Apex, NC 27502-4266

Jack W. Campbell IV
Executive Director