

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

FILE COPY

IN THE MATTER OF :
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST : FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
:
ALAN R. THORSEN, R.N., :
RESPONDENT :
:

The parties to this action for the purposes of Wis. Stats. sec. 227.53 are:

Alan R. Thorsen
137 Highwood Drive
Edgerton, WI 53534

197 Highway N
Edgerton, WI 53534

Board of Nursing
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

Department of Regulation and Licensing
Division of Enforcement
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

The parties in this matter agree to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final decision of this matter, subject to the approval of the Board. The Board has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

Accordingly, the Board in this matter adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent Alan R. Thorsen (D.O.B. 04/04/54) is a registered nurse licensed in the State of Wisconsin pursuant to license # 96458, having been so licensed since March 20, 1987.
2. Mr. Thorsen's latest address on file with the Department of Regulation and Licensing is 137 Highwood Drive, Edgerton, WI 53534.
3. Since 1972, Mr. Thorsen has abused alcohol and other drugs.
4. On diverse occasions between February, 1987 and October, 1987, Mr. Thorsen improperly diverted quantities of Demerol, Percodan, Percocet, Dilaudid, Tylenol #3 and #4, morphine, and other opiates for his own personal use while employed as a professional nurse at the Beloit Memorial Hospital ("Beloit Memorial"), 1969 West Hart Road, Beloit, WI.
5. On diverse occasions during his employment at Beloit Memorial, Mr. Thorsen would withhold for his own personal use a portion of the drugs

intended for administration to patients, and as result these patients would not receive the correct dosages prescribed for them.

6. On or about August 27, 1987, Mr. Thorsen charted the administration of medications for three patients during his 11 p.m.-7 a.m. shift, but the patients denied receiving the medication at all the times indicated in their charts.

7. On or about August 28, 1987, Mr. Thorsen when confronted by Beloit Memorial Staff admitted that he falsified patient records and abused the drugs he had diverted, and produced a syringe, 3 tablets of Percocet and 2 tablets of Tylenol #3 from his pockets.

8. Following an October, 1987 inpatient hospitalization at DePaul Rehabilitation Hospital, Mr. Thorsen agreed to participate in an outpatient treatment program for a period of two years.

9. Sometime on or before June, 1989, Mr. Thorsen discontinued his outpatient treatment and later was discharged as "improved."

10. As part of his outpatient treatment, Mr. Thorsen was monitored through a program of urine screens.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Board of Nursing has jurisdiction to act in this matter pursuant to sec. 441.07, Wis. Stats.

2. The Wisconsin Board of Nursing is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation pursuant to sec. 227.44(5), Wis. Stats.

3. By the conduct described above, Respondent Alan Thorsen is subject to disciplinary action against his license to practice as a registered nurse in the State of Wisconsin, pursuant to:

a. Sec. 441.07(1)(c), Wis. Stats, by acts that show he is unfit or incompetent to practice as registered nurse by reason of abuse of alcohol or other drugs, as defined by sec. N7.03(2), Wis. Adm. Code.

b. Sec. 441.07(1)(d), Wis. Stats, by his misconduct and unprofessional conduct, as defined by sec. N7.04, Wis. Adm. Code and specifically including sec. N7.04(2), Wis. Adm. Code, administering, supplying, or obtaining any drugs other than in the course of legitimate practice or as otherwise prohibited by law.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that the attached Stipulation is accepted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that Respondent Alan Thorsen's license as a registered nurse (license # 96458) is limited as follows:

i. Mr. Thorsen must attend Alcoholics or Narcotics Anonymous at least one (1) time per week during the period of limitation.

ii. Upon request of the Board, Mr. Thorsen shall provide the Board with current releases complying with state and federal laws, authorizing release of monitoring, employment and all other records he must submit pursuant to the terms of this Order.

iii. Mr. Thorsen shall remain free of alcohol, prescription drugs and controlled substances not prescribed for valid medical purposes during the period of limitation.

iv. For a period of six (6) months commencing no later than thirty (30) days after the date this Final Decision and Order is entered, Mr. Thorsen must participate in a program of random witnessed monitoring for controlled substances and alcohol in her blood and/or urine on a frequency of not less than four (4) times per month. If any health care provider supervising his plan of care or his employer deems that additional blood or urine screens are warranted, Mr. Thorsen shall submit to such additional screens. This authority of a health care provider or employer to require Mr. Thorsen to submit to additional screens will survive completion of the six (6) month monitoring period and will continue in effect as long as Mr. Thorsen's license is limited by this Order.

Mr. Thorsen shall be responsible for obtaining a monitoring facility and reporting system acceptable to the Board, as well as for all costs incurred in conjunction with the monitoring and reporting required.

To be an acceptable program, the monitoring facility shall agree to provide random and witnessed gatherings of specimens for evaluation. The facility must agree to maintain a custody record of all specimens, and to confirm positive test results with gas chromatography or mass spectrometry. It shall further agree to file an immediate report directly with the Board of Nursing upon such failures to participate as: if Mr. Thorsen fails to appear upon request; or if a drug or alcohol screen proves positive; or if Mr. Thorsen refuses to give a specimen for analysis upon a request authorized under the terms of this Order.

Mr. Thorsen shall arrange for the Board of Nursing to receive two reports at three (3) month intervals from the monitoring facility providing the dates and results of the screenings performed.

v. Mr. Thorsen shall report to the Board any change in employment status, change of residence address or phone number, within five (5) days of any such change.

vi. Mr. Thorsen shall arrange for the Board of Nursing to receive two reports from his employer evaluating his work performance. The reports

shall be provided at three (3) month intervals commencing on the date he first becomes employed. The obligation to furnish these reports will remain in effect until Mr. Thorsen becomes employed as a nurse and has worked for a period of at least six (6) months at such employment.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that upon a showing by Respondent Alan Thorsen of successful compliance with terms i. through vi. above, the Board shall grant a petition by Mr. Thorsen for return of full licensure.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that Respondent Alan Thorsen may petition the Board to revise or eliminate any of the above conditions.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that violation of any of the terms of this Order may result in a summary suspension of Mr. Thorsen's license; the imposition of additional conditions and limitations; or the imposition of other additional discipline.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that this Order shall become effective upon the date of its signing.

BOARD OF NURSING

By: Jacqueline Johnson RN Date 6/28/91
A Member of the Board

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF	:	
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST	:	STIPULATION
	:	87 NUR 112
ALAN R. THORSEN, R.N.,	:	
RESPONDENT	:	

It is hereby stipulated between Alan R. Thorsen, personally on his own behalf and the Department of Regulation and Licensing, Division of Enforcement by its attorney Richard Castelnuovo, as follows:

1. This Stipulation is entered into as a result of a pending disciplinary action against Alan R. Thorsen ("Respondent") by the Division of Enforcement. Respondent consents to the resolution of this action without further proceedings by submission of this Stipulation directly to the Board of Nursing.

2. Respondent is aware and understands his rights with respect to disciplinary proceedings, including the right to a statement of the allegations against him; the right to a hearing at which time the State has the burden of proving those allegations; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to call witnesses on his behalf and to compel attendance of witnesses by subpoena; the right to testify himself; the right to file objections to any proposed decision and to present briefs or oral arguments to the officials who are to render the final decision; the right to petition for rehearing; and all other applicable rights afforded to him under the United States Constitution, the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin Statutes, and the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

3. Respondent voluntarily and knowingly waives the rights set forth in paragraph 2 above, on the condition that all of the provisions of this Stipulation are approved by the Board.

4. Respondent is aware of his right to seek legal representation and has been provided the opportunity to obtain legal advice prior to execution of this Stipulation.

5. With respect to the attached Final Decision and Order, Respondent does not contest the matter and agrees solely for the purpose of resolving this matter and avoiding further proceedings that the Board may make the findings set forth in the Findings of Fact, reach the conclusions set forth in the Conclusions of Law and enter the Order restricting Respondent's practice as a registered nurse in the State of Wisconsin.

6. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Board, the parties shall not be bound by the contents of this Stipulation or the proposed Final Decision and Order, and the matter shall be returned to the Division of Enforcement for further proceedings. In the event that the Stipulation is not accepted by the Board, the parties agree not to contend that the Board has been prejudiced or biased in any manner by the consideration of this attempted resolution.

7. If the Board accepts the terms of this Stipulation, the parties to the Stipulation consent to the entry of the attached Final Decision and Order without further notice, pleading, appearance or consent of the parties.

8. Attached to this Stipulation is the current licensure card of Respondent Alan Thorsen. If the Board accepts the Stipulation, Respondent's license shall be reissued in accordance with the terms of the attached Final Decision and Order. If the Board does not accept this Stipulation, the Respondent's license shall be returned to him with a notice of the Board's decision not to accept the Stipulation.

9. The parties to this Stipulation agree that the attorney for the Division of Enforcement may appear before the Board of Nursing for the purposes of speaking in support of this agreement and answering questions that the members of the Board may have in connection with their deliberations on the Stipulation.

10. Also attached to this Stipulation are copies of Respondent's health care records for review by the Board in conjunction with their consideration of the attached Final Decision and Order.

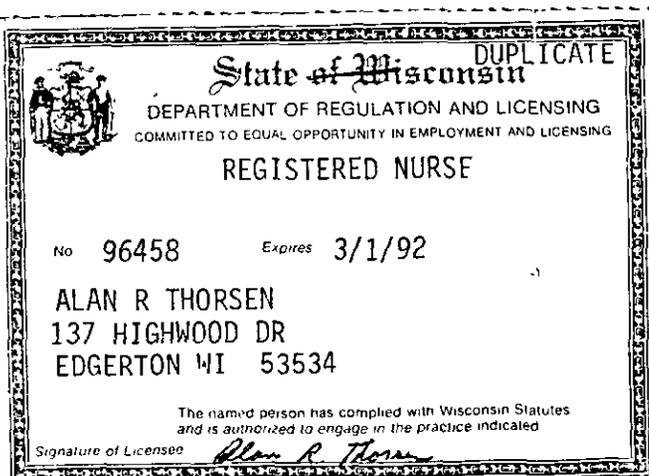
11. The Division of Enforcement joins Respondent in recommending the Board of Nursing adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.

Alan R. Thorsen
Alan R. Thorsen

6-6-91
Date

Richard M. Castelnuovo
Richard M. Castelnuovo, Attorney
Division of Enforcement

6/12/91
Date



NOTICE OF APPEAL INFORMATION

(Notice of Rights for Rehearing or Judicial Review,
the times allowed for each, and the identification
of the party to be named as respondent)

The following notice is served on you as part of the final decision:

1. Rehearing.

Any person aggrieved by this order may petition for a rehearing within 20 days of the service of this decision, as provided in section 227.49 of the Wisconsin Statutes, a copy of which is attached. The 20 day period commences the day after personal service or mailing of this decision. (The date of mailing of this decision is shown below.) The petition for rehearing should be filed with the State of Wisconsin Board of Nursing.

A petition for rehearing is not a prerequisite for appeal directly to circuit court through a petition for judicial review.

2. Judicial Review.

Any person aggrieved by this decision has a right to petition for judicial review of this decision as provided in section 227.53 of the Wisconsin Statutes, a copy of which is attached. The petition should be filed in circuit court and served upon the State of Wisconsin Board of Nursing

within 30 days of service of this decision if there has been no petition for rehearing, or within 30 days of service of the order finally disposing of the petition for rehearing, or within 30 days after the final disposition by operation of law of any petition for rehearing.

The 30 day period commences the day after personal service or mailing of the decision or order, or the day after the final disposition by operation of the law of any petition for rehearing. (The date of mailing of this decision is shown below.) A petition for judicial review should be served upon, and name as the respondent, the following: the State of Wisconsin Board of Nursing.

The date of mailing of this decision is July 9, 1991.

227.49 Petitions for rehearing in contested cases. (1) A petition for rehearing shall not be a prerequisite for appeal or review. Any person aggrieved by a final order may, within 20 days after service of the order, file a written petition for rehearing which shall specify in detail the grounds for the relief sought and supporting authorities. An agency may order a rehearing on its own motion within 20 days after service of a final order. This subsection does not apply to s. 17.025 (3) (e). No agency is required to conduct more than one rehearing based on a petition for rehearing filed under this subsection in any contested case.

(2) The filing of a petition for rehearing shall not suspend or delay the effective date of the order, and the order shall take effect on the date fixed by the agency and shall continue in effect unless the petition is granted or until the order is superseded, modified, or set aside as provided by law.

(3) Rehearing will be granted only on the basis of:

(a) Some material error of law.

(b) Some material error of fact.

(c) The discovery of new evidence sufficiently strong to reverse or modify the order, and which could not have been previously discovered by due diligence.

(4) Copies of petitions for rehearing shall be served on all parties of record. Parties may file replies to the petition.

(5) The agency may order a rehearing or enter an order with reference to the petition without a hearing, and shall dispose of the petition within 30 days after it is filed. If the agency does not enter an order disposing of the petition within the 30-day period, the petition shall be deemed to have been denied as of the expiration of the 30-day period.

(6) Upon granting a rehearing, the agency shall set the matter for further proceedings as soon as practicable. Proceedings upon rehearing shall conform as nearly may be to the proceedings in an original hearing except as the agency may otherwise direct. If in the agency's judgment, after such rehearing it appears that the original decision, order or determination is in any respect unlawful or unreasonable, the agency may reverse, change, modify or suspend the same accordingly. Any decision, order or determination made after such rehearing reversing, changing, modifying or suspending the original determination shall have the same force and effect as an original decision, order or determination.

227.52 Judicial review; decisions reviewable. Administrative decisions which adversely affect the substantial interests of any person, whether by action or inaction, whether affirmative or negative in form, are subject to review as provided in this chapter, except for the decisions of the department of revenue other than decisions relating to alcohol beverage permits issued under ch. 125, decisions of the department of employe trust funds, the commissioner of banking, the commissioner of credit unions, the commissioner of savings and loan, the board of state canvassers and those decisions of the department of industry, labor and human relations which are subject to review, prior to any judicial review, by the labor and industry review commission, and except as otherwise provided by law.

227.53 Parties and proceedings for review. (1) Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, any person aggrieved by a decision specified in s. 227.52 shall be entitled to judicial review thereof as provided in this chapter.

(a) 1. Proceedings for review shall be instituted by serving a petition therefor personally or by certified mail upon the agency or one of its officials, and filing the petition in the office of the clerk of the circuit court for the county where the judicial review proceedings are to be held. If the agency whose decision is sought to be reviewed is the tax appeals commission, the banking review board or the consumer credit review board, the credit union review board or the savings and loan review board, the petition shall be served upon both the agency whose decision is sought to be reviewed and the corresponding named respondent, as specified under par. (b) 1 to 4.

2. Unless a rehearing is requested under s. 227.49, petitions for review under this paragraph shall be served and filed within 30 days after the service of the decision of the agency upon all parties under s. 227.48. If a rehearing is requested under s. 227.49, any party desiring judicial review shall serve and file a petition for review within 30 days after service of the order finally disposing of the application for rehearing, or within 30 days after the final disposition by operation of law of any such application for rehearing. The 30-day period for serving and filing a petition under this paragraph commences on the day after personal service or mailing of the decision by the agency.

3. If the petitioner is a resident, the proceedings shall be held in the circuit court for the county where the petitioner resides, except that if the petitioner is an agency, the proceedings shall be in the circuit court for the county where the respondent resides and except as provided in ss. 77.59 (6) (b), 182.70 (6) and 182.71 (5) (g). The proceedings shall be in the circuit court for Dane county if the petitioner is a nonresident. If all parties stipulate and the court to which the parties desire to transfer the proceedings agrees, the proceedings may be held in the county designated by the parties. If 2 or more petitions for review of the same decision are filed in different counties, the circuit judge for the county in which a petition for review of the decision was first filed shall determine the venue for judicial review of the decision, and shall order transfer or consolidation where appropriate.

(b) The petition shall state the nature of the petitioner's interest, the facts showing that petitioner is a person aggrieved by the decision, and the grounds specified in s. 227.57 upon which petitioner contends that the decision should be reversed or modified. The petition may be amended, by leave of court, though the time for serving the same has expired. The petition shall be entitled in the name of the person serving it as petitioner and the name of the agency whose decision is sought to be reviewed as respondent, except that in petitions

for review of decisions of the following agencies, the latter agency specified shall be the named respondent:

1. The tax appeals commission, the department of revenue.

2. The banking review board or the consumer credit review board, the commissioner of banking.

3. The credit union review board, the commissioner of credit unions.

4. The savings and loan review board, the commissioner of savings and loan, except if the petitioner is the commissioner of savings and loan, the prevailing parties before the savings and loan review board shall be the named respondents.

(c) A copy of the petition shall be served personally or by certified mail or, when service is timely admitted in writing, by first class mail, not later than 30 days after the institution of the proceeding, upon each party who appeared before the agency in the proceeding in which the decision sought to be reviewed was made or upon the party's attorney of record. A court may not dismiss the proceeding for review solely because of a failure to serve a copy of the petition upon a party or the party's attorney of record unless the petitioner fails to serve a person listed as a party for purposes of review in the agency's decision under s. 227.47 or the person's attorney of record.

(d) The agency (except in the case of the tax appeals commission and the banking review board, the consumer credit review board, the credit union review board, and the savings and loan review board) and all parties to the proceeding before it, shall have the right to participate in the proceedings for review. The court may permit other interested persons to intervene. Any person petitioning the court to intervene shall serve a copy of the petition on each party who appeared before the agency and any additional parties to the judicial review at least 5 days prior to the date set for hearing on the petition.

(2) Every person served with the petition for review as provided in this section and who desires to participate in the proceedings for review thereby instituted shall serve upon the petitioner, within 20 days after service of the petition upon such person, a notice of appearance clearly stating the person's position with reference to each material allegation in the petition and to the affirmance, vacation or modification of the order or decision under review. Such notice, other than by the named respondent, shall also be served on the named respondent and the attorney general, and shall be filed, together with proof of required service thereof, with the clerk of the reviewing court within 10 days after such service. Service of all subsequent papers or notices in such proceeding need be made only upon the petitioner and such other persons as have served and filed the notice as provided in this subsection or have been permitted to intervene in said proceeding, as parties thereto, by order of the reviewing court.