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State of Wisconsin
Before the Board of Nursing

In the Matter of the Disciplinary Proceedings Against
Meryl Marie Behnke, LPN
Respondent.

Final Decision and Order LS9909174NUR

The parties to this proceeding for purposes of s. 227.53, Stats., are:

Meryl Marie Behnke
132 Victor Street
Coleman WI 54112

Board of Nursing
Department of Regulation and Licensing
P.O. Box 8935
Madison WI 53708

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

The parties having agreed to the attached stipulation, the Board of Nursing makes the following:

Findings of Fact

1. Meryl Marie Behnke, LPN, was born on January 16, 1951, and is a licensed practical nurse in the state of Wisconsin pursuant to license number 17943, first granted on December 10, 1976.
2. Ms. Behnke was employed at Elite Manor, a community based residential facility in Green Bay at all times relevant to this matter. On April 3, 1998, she was terminated from that employment, on the basis of complaints of verbal abuse of the residents in her care during the preceding six months.
3. The Bureau of Quality Control, Department of Health and Family Services, conducted a survey of Elite Manor in response to a report by Elite Manor of allegations of patient abuse by Ms. Behnke. The survey substantiated several complaints of verbal abuse of several residents.

Conclusions of Law

1. The Board of Nursing has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to s. 441.07, Stats.
2. Ms. Behnke's verbal abuse of residents of a CBRF in her care constitutes a violation of s. N7.04(4), Wis. Admin. Code.

Order

Meryl Marie Behnke, LPN, is hereby reprimanded.

It is further ordered that Ms. Behnke will complete education courses approved by the Board in anger management and in patient rights no later than August 1, 2000. Ms. Behnke shall obtain pre-approval from the Board or its designee for any course she intends to take in compliance with this order.

The Board's designee is

Theodore Nehring
Department Monitor
Division of Enforcement
P.O. Box 8935
Madison WI 53708
608/261-7938

Dated this 17th day of September, 1999.

Wisconsin Board of Nursing

Timothy D. Burns, CRNA

A Member of the Board.