

## WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

JULIE SIGNE GUNNESS, R.N.,  
RESPONDENT.

:  
:  
:  
FINAL DECISION  
AND ORDER  
:  
:  
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The parties to this action for the purposes of Wis. Stats. sec.  
227.16 are:

Julie Signe Gunness, R.N.  
6701 Schroeder Road, #6  
Madison, WI 53711

Board of Nursing  
P.O. Box 8936  
Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8936

Department of Regulation & Licensing  
Division of Enforcement  
P.O. Box 8936  
Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8936

A party aggrieved by this decision may petition the Board for rehearing within twenty (20) days after service of this decision pursuant to Wis. Stats. sec. 227.12. The petition in this instance would be captioned with Julie Signe Gunness as the respondent.

A party aggrieved by this decision who is a resident of this state may also petition for judicial review by filing the petition in the office of the clerk of the circuit court for the county where the party aggrieved resides within thirty (30) days after service of this decision. A party aggrieved by this decision who is not a resident of this state must file the petition for judicial review in the office of the clerk of circuit court for Dane County. A party aggrieved must also serve the board and other parties with a copy of the petition for judicial review within thirty (30) days after service of this decision pursuant to Wis. Stats. sec. 227.16. The party to be named as respondent in the petition is the State of Wisconsin Board of Nursing.

The parties in this matter agree to the terms and conditions of the attached stipulation as the final disposition 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:

EXHIBIT A

### FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Julie Signe Gunness is duly licensed as a registered nurse in the State of Wisconsin (license number 81259); this license was issued on March 26, 1982.

2. On exact dates unknown, but beginning in September, 1984 and continuing up to October 10, 1984, Ms. Gunness diverted controlled substances for her personal use from supplies of her employer, University Hospital Clinic Science Center in Madison, Wisconsin. To avoid detection, Ms. Gunness in some instances replaced the drugs she diverted with saline solution.

3. The controlled substances diverted by Ms. Gunness included Percocet, Demerol, Dilaudid and Morphine.

4. On October 10, 1984 Ms. Gunness confessed to the diversion and illicit use of drugs. She was subsequently placed in the Dane County First Offenders Program and commenced inpatient treatment for chemical dependency in the A.P.E.C. program at Madison General Hospital.

5. Ms. Gunness was discharged to outpatient care on November 22, 1984. On or about December 15, 1984, Ms. Gunness relapsed with an incident of recreational use of cocaine. She remained in treatment and continues in a treatment program at this time.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

By the conduct described above, Julie Signe Gunness is subject to disciplinary action against her license, pursuant to Wis. Stats. sec. 441.07(1)(c) and (d) and Wis. Adm. Code secs. N 11.03(3)(a) and (b) and N 11.04(1).

Therefore, it is hereby ORDERED:

(a) The license of Ms. Gunness is SUSPENDED for a period of not less than two (2) years. The suspension shall be stayed for a period of three (3) months, conditioned upon compliance with the conditions and limitations outlined in paragraph (b), below.

- i. Ms. Gunness may apply for consecutive three month extensions of the stay of suspension, which shall be granted upon Ms. Gunness's acceptable demonstration of compliance with the conditions and limitations imposed on Ms. Gunness's practice during the prior three month period.
- ii. If the Board denies a petition by Ms. Gunness for an extension, the Board shall afford Ms. Gunness an opportunity for hearing in accordance with current regulations governing denial proceedings, upon timely receipt of a request for hearing.

- iii. Upon successful compliance for a period of two years with the terms of paragraph (b), below, the Board shall grant a petition by Ms. Gunness for a return to full licensure.
- iv. In consideration of Ms. Gunness's regimen of treatment following her relapse on December 15, 1984, the Board reduces the two year compliance period by 5 months.

(b) CONDITIONS OF STAY

- i. Ms. Gunness must remain in a program acceptable to the board for the treatment of chemical dependency. As a part of her treatment, Ms. Gunness must attend therapy on a schedule as recommended by her therapist; attendance, however, shall be required at least one time per week. In addition, Ms. Gunness must attend Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous at least one time per week.
- ii. Upon request of the Board, Ms. Gunness must provide the Board with current releases complying with state and federal laws, authorizing release of her counseling, treatment, and monitoring records.
- iii. Ms. Gunness must remain free of alcohol and controlled substances not prescribed for a valid medical purpose during the period of limitation.
- iv. Ms. Gunness must participate in a program of random, supervised monitoring, on the basis of at least one time per week, for controlled substances and alcohol in her blood and/or urine. If the therapist supervising Ms. Gunness's plan of care deems that additional blood or urine screens are warranted, Ms. Gunness must submit to those screens.

Ms. Gunness 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 must agree to provide random and monitored gatherings of specimens for evaluation. It must further agree to file an immediate report with the Board of Nursing upon such failure to participate as: if Ms. Gunness fails to appear upon request; or if a drug or alcohol screen proves positive; or if Ms. Gunness refuses to give a specimen for analysis upon the request of the monitoring facility.

- v. Ms. Gunness shall arrange for written quarterly reports to the Board of Nursing from her employer evaluating her work performance; from her monitoring facility providing the dates and results of

the screenings performed; from her counselor, evaluating her attendance and progress in therapy; and from herself, reporting her attendance at A.A. or N.A. meetings.

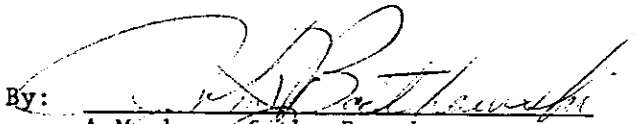
- vi. Ms. Gunness shall report to the Board within five (5) days of any change in her employment status.

(c) Respondent may petition the Board in conjunction with any application for an additional stay to revise or eliminate any of the above conditions.

(d) Violation of any of the terms of this order may result in the summary suspension of Respondent's license; the denial of an extension of the stay of suspension; the imposition of additional conditions and limitations on Ms. Gunness's practice; or the imposition of other additional discipline.

(e) This order shall become effective fifteen (15) days following the date of its signing.

BOARD OF NURSING

By:   
A Member of the Board

5-21-85  
Date

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