

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE PHARMACY EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

RALPH G. KOCH, R PH.
RESPONDENT.

92 PHM 106

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

Ralph G. Koch, R.Ph.
3614 High Cliff Court
Sheboygan, WI 53083

Wisconsin Pharmacy Examining Board
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 Ralph G. Koch (dob 11/28/52) is and was at all times relevant to the facts set forth herein a registered pharmacist licensed in the State of Wisconsin pursuant to license #9023. Respondent has never been the subject of disciplinary action by the board, and cooperated in the board's investigation of this matter.

2. The Respondent did, on September 29, 1992, create what purported to be a telephoned prescription for himself for doxepin 75 mg, and did dispense the medication to himself and consumed it, all without knowledge of the physician who purportedly authorized the prescription, and without any other authorization. Doxepin is a tricyclic antidepressant which had been prescribed for respondent by a physician previously.

3. The Respondent did, on November 28, 1990, create what purported to be a telephoned prescription for himself for Elocon ointment, and did dispense the medication to himself and used it, all without knowledge of the physician who purportedly authorized the prescription and without any other authorization. Respondent then dispensed what purported to be refills of this prescription on 7 occasions over the next ten months. Elocon is a corticosteroid used for skin rashes and inflammations to reduce itching and promote healing.

4 Respondent has been diagnosed as being clinically depressed, and is now under appropriate treatment.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

5. The Wisconsin Pharmacy Examining Board has jurisdiction to act in this matter pursuant to §450.10, Wis. Stats.
6. The Board is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation pursuant to §227.44(5), Wis. Stats.
7. The conduct described in paragraphs 2 and 3, above, violated §450.11(1), Wis. Stats., and § Phar 10.03(1) and (5), Wis. Adm. Code. Such conduct constitutes unprofessional conduct within the meaning of the Code and statutes.
8. This Order represents a reasonable accommodation on the part of the Board to allow the respondent to practice pharmacy, in light of the facts and circumstances of this case.

ORDER

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

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that Ralph G. Koch, R.Ph., is hereby REPRIMANDED for his unprofessional conduct in this matter.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that respondent shall forfeit \$250 within 30 days of this order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that effective on the date of this Order, the pharmacist license of Ralph G. Koch is SUSPENDED for a period of not less than two (2) years. The Board in its discretion may restore Respondent's license to full, unlimited status only upon petition by Respondent after completion of the aforesaid suspension period, and a showing that Respondent has complied with all terms and conditions of this Order, and a demonstration that Respondent may practice pharmacy without condition or limitation.

1. STAY OF SUSPENSION. The suspension shall be STAYED for a period of three months, conditioned upon compliance with the conditions and limitations outlined in paragraph 2., below.
 - a. The Respondent may apply for consecutive three (3) month extensions of the stay of suspension, which shall be granted upon acceptable demonstration of compliance with the conditions and limitations imposed on the Respondent for rehabilitation and practice during the prior three (3) month period.
 - b. The Board may without hearing deny an application for extension of the stay, or commence other appropriate action, upon receipt of information that Respondent has violated any of the terms or conditions of this Order. If the Board denies the petition by the Respondent for an extension, the Board shall afford an opportunity for hearing in accordance with the procedures set forth in Wis. Adm. Code Ch. RL 1 upon timely receipt of a request for hearing.
 - c. Upon a showing by Respondent of successful compliance for a period of two years with the terms of paragraph 2., below, the Board may grant a petition by the Respondent for return of full licensure

d. The applications for extension under 1.a. and all required reports under 2.a-c. shall be due on each and every January 1st, April 1st, July 1st and October 1st for the period that this Order remains in effect, commencing April 1, 1993.

2. CONDITIONS OF STAY AND LIMITATIONS. The initial stay of suspension and any subsequent stay shall be conditioned upon the following terms and limitations:

a. Unprescribed Use of Drugs Prohibited. Respondent shall remain free of prescription drugs and controlled substances not prescribed by a practitioner for legitimate medical purposes. Respondent shall have his physician report in writing to the supervising physician or therapist under paragraph 2.b.(1) all medications prescribed to the Respondent within 3 days of such prescribing.

b. Rehabilitation, Monitoring and Treatment Program. Respondent shall continue to participate in a rehabilitation, monitoring and treatment program acceptable to the Board for the treatment of depression. Such program shall consist of the following elements and requirements:

(1) Respondent shall continue to participate in an mental health program under the care and supervision of a qualified physician or therapist (hereinafter, "supervising physician or therapist"). Respondent shall obtain from the Pharmacy Examining Board prior approval of the supervising physician or therapist. The supervising physician or therapist shall be responsible for the Respondent's total rehabilitation program. Respondent shall immediately provide a copy of this order to his supervising physician or therapist. Respondent shall participate in and comply with all recommendations for treatment, subject to the requirements of this order.

(2) The rehabilitation program shall include and Respondent shall participate in individual and/or group therapy sessions for the first year of the stayed suspension upon a schedule as recommended by the supervising physician or therapist, but not less than monthly. Such therapy shall be conducted by the supervising physician or therapist, or another qualified physician or therapist as designated by the supervising physician or therapist and acceptable to the Board. After the first year of stayed suspension, this requirement for therapy sessions may be modified only upon written petition, and a written recommendation by the supervising physician or therapist expressly supporting the modifications sought. A denial of such petition for modification shall not be deemed a denial of the license under sec. 227.01(3) or 227.42, Wis. Stats., or Ch. RL 1, Wis. Adm. Code, and shall not be subject to any right to further hearing or appeal.

(3) If the physician or therapist supervising the Respondent's plan of care, Respondent's employer, the Pharmacy Examining Board or the Department of Regulation and Licensing, Division of Enforcement deems that blood or urine screens are warranted, Respondent shall submit to such screens as requested or recommended.

(4) Respondent shall arrange for quarterly reports from his supervising physician or therapist directly to the Board evaluating and reporting:

(a) A summary of Respondent's progress in his rehabilitation program to date, and all recommendations for continuing rehabilitation treatment,

- (b) Respondent's participation in and results of any urine and/or blood screening program.

Such quarterly reports shall be due on the dates specified under paragraph 1.d. of this Order.

(5) Immediate Reports. Respondent shall arrange for agreement by his supervising physician or therapist to report immediately to the Board any conduct or condition of Respondent that may constitute a danger to the public in his practice of pharmacy, and any occurrence that constitutes a failure on the part of the Respondent to comply with the requirements of this Order or treatment recommendations by the supervising physician or therapist, including any indications of consumption of alcohol or unauthorized use of any controlled substances, notice of any positive blood and/or urine screen for alcohol or controlled substances, and any urine specimen that is below a specific gravity of 1.008

c. Practice of Pharmacy: Limitations and Conditions. Any practice of Pharmacy by Respondent during the pendency of this Order shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

- (1) Full Compliance with Order Required. Respondent shall not practice as a pharmacist in any capacity unless he is in full compliance with the rehabilitation and treatment programs as specified and approved under this Order.
- (2) No Managing Pharmacist. Respondent shall not be employed as or work in the capacity of a "managing pharmacist" as defined in secs. Phar 1.02(6), Wis. Adm. Code.
- (3) Provision of Copy of Order to Employers. Respondent shall provide his employer and any prospective employers with a copy of this Stipulation and Final Decision and Order immediately upon issuance of this Order, and upon any change in employment.
- (4) Quarterly Reports. Respondent shall arrange for his supervising pharmacist to provide directly to the Board quarterly written reports evaluating Respondent's work performance, which shall include reports or information required under subparagraph (5) hereunder. Such reports shall be due on the dates specified in paragraph 1.d. of this Order.
- (5) Immediate Reports. Respondent shall arrange for agreement by his supervising pharmacist to immediately report to the Board and to the supervising physician or therapist any conduct or condition of Respondent that may constitute a violation of this Order or a danger to the public.

8 VIOLATIONS OF ORDER. Violation of any of the terms of this Order or of any law substantially relating to the practice of pharmacy may result in a summary suspension of the Respondent's license; the denial of an extension of the stay of suspension; the imposition of additional conditions and limitations; or the imposition of other additional discipline, including revocation of license.

9. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Order shall become effective immediately upon issuance by the Pharmacy Examining Board, except for provision 2.a., which is effective the date of signing by Respondent.

Dated this 9 day of February, 1993.

WISCONSIN PHARMACY EXAMINING BOARD

by: Charles H. Dunkel, R.Ph.
a member of the board

ATY2-3190
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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE PHARMACY EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF :
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST :

RALPH G. KOCH, R.PH., :
RESPONDENT. :

STIPULATION
92 PHM 106

It is hereby stipulated between the above Respondent, personally on his own behalf, and the Department of Regulation and Licensing, Division of Enforcement by its undersigned attorney as follows.

1. This Stipulation is entered into as a result of a pending investigation of licensure of Respondent by the Division of Enforcement. Respondent consents to the resolution of this investigation by Stipulation and without the issuance of a formal complaint.
2. Respondent is aware of and understands his rights with respect to disciplinary proceedings, including the right to a statement of the allegations against him; a 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 personally; 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 under the United States Constitution, the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin Statutes, and the Wisconsin Administrative Code.
3. By entering into this Stipulation, 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 obtained legal advice prior to execution of this Stipulation.
5. With respect to the attached Final Decision and Order, Respondent admits the facts set forth in the Findings of Fact, and further agrees that the Board may reach the conclusions set forth in the Conclusions of Law, and may enter the Order.
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 this Stipulation is not accepted by the Board, the parties agree not to contend that either the Board or the Respondent 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 this Stipulation consent to the entry of the attached Final Decision and Order without further notice, pleading, appearance or consent of the parties.


8. Respondent agrees that an attorney for the Division of Enforcement may appear at any deliberative meeting of the Board, in open or closed session, without the presence of Respondent or Respondent's attorney, with respect to this Stipulation but that appearance is limited to statements solely in support of this Stipulation, and to answering questions asked by the Board and its staff, and for no other purpose.

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

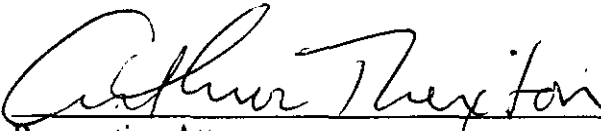
10. Respondent is informed that should the board adopt this stipulation, the board's final decision and order adopting the terms of the stipulation will be published in the Monthly Disciplinary Report issued by the department, and a summary of the order adopting the terms of the stipulation shall be published in the Wisconsin Regulatory Digest issued semiannually by the department, all of which is standard Department policy and in no way specially directed at Respondent.



Respondent 1-21-93
Date



Carl K. Buesing, Attorney for Respondent 1/22/93
Date



Prosecuting Attorney 1/26/93
Date
Division of Enforcement

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 Pharmacy Examining Board.

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 Pharmacy Examining Board

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 Pharmacy Examining Board.

The date of mailing of this decision is February 11, 1993.