

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



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FILE COPY

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

SUZANNE I. THORSEN, R.N.,
RESPONDENT.

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
91 NUR 124

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

Suzanne I. Thorsen
1137 Williamson Street
Madison, WI 53703

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. Suzanne I. Thorsen (D.O.B. 01/31/54) is duly licensed in the state
of Wisconsin as a registered nurse (license #96459). This license was first
granted on March 20, 1987.
2. Respondent's latest address on file with the Department of
Regulation and Licensing is 403 South Main Street, Edgerton, WI 53534.
3. At all times relevant to this action Respondent was working as a
registered nurse at St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center, Madison, Wisconsin.

4. On February 10 and 11, 1991, Respondent on three occasions ordered Demerol and Morphine for patients but failed to account for disposition of the drugs.

5. During the period April 11, 1991 through April 28, 1991, Respondent on fifteen occasions ordered morphine tubexes for patients but failed to account for disposition of the drugs. Some of the patients were not assigned to Respondent for care.

6. On February 10, 1991, Respondent was assigned to the care of patient R.C. who suffered from unstable angina. Although the patient complained of significant chest pains, and apparently required a large dosage of morphine, Respondent failed to report the change in condition to the patient's physician.

7. In November, 1992, Respondent submitted to a chemical dependency evaluation by University of Wisconsin Outpatient Services. The results of the evaluation were inconclusive, and did not establish that Respondent is chemically dependent.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

By the conduct described above, Respondent is subject to disciplinary action against her license to practice as a registered nurse in the state of Wisconsin, pursuant to Wis. Stats. sec. 441.07(1)(b), (c) and (d), and Wis. Adm. Code sec. N 7.03(1) (b) and (c) and N 7.04(2) and (6).

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that :

1. The license of Suzanne I. Thorsen shall be SUSPENDED for a period of not less than one year.

2. The suspension shall be stayed for a period of three months, conditioned upon compliance with the conditions and limitations set forth in this Order. During the initial stay of suspension Respondent shall participate in a course approved by the Board of nursing ethics.

a). Respondent may apply for consecutive three month extensions of the stay of suspension, which shall be granted upon acceptable demonstration of compliance with the conditions and limitations imposed upon Respondent's practice during the prior three month period.

b). If the Board denies the petition by Respondent for an extension of stay, 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 complete, successful and continuous compliance for a period of one year with the terms of this Order, the Board shall grant a petition by Respondent for return of full licensure.

3. Upon request, Respondent shall provide the Board with current releases, complying with federal and state law authorizing release of counseling, treatment, monitoring and employment records.

4. Respondent shall remain free of alcohol, prescription drugs and controlled substances not prescribed for valid medical purposes during the term of this Order.

5. Respondent shall arrange for quarterly reports to the Board of Nursing from her employer evaluating her work performance. Respondent shall refrain from access to or the administration of controlled substances in her work setting until such time as access or administration is approved by the Board of Nursing.

6. Respondent shall report to the Board any change in employment status, change of address or phone number, within five days of any such change.

7. Respondent may petition the Board in conjunction with any application for an additional stay to revise or eliminate any of the above conditions. Denial in whole or in part of a petition under this paragraph shall not constitute a denial of license, and shall not give rise to a contested case within the meaning of Wis. Stats. sec. 227.01(3) and 227.42.

8. Violation of any of the terms of this Order shall be construed as conduct imperiling public health, safety and welfare, and may result in a summary suspension of Respondent's license. The Board in its discretion may in the alternative deny an extension of stay of suspension or impose additional conditions and limitations or other additional discipline.

This Order shall become effective upon the date of its signing.

BOARD OF NURSING

By: *Jacqueline Johnson RN MS* 1/8/93
a member of the Board Date

jwh

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF	:	
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST	:	STIPULATION
SUZANNE I. THORSEN, R.N.,	:	91 NUR 124
RESPONDENT	:	

It is hereby stipulated between Suzanne I. Thorsen, personally on her own behalf and James W. Harris, Attorney for the Department of Regulation and Licensing, Division of Enforcement, as follows that:

1. This Stipulation is entered in resolution of the pending proceedings concerning Respondent's license. The stipulation and order shall be presented directly to the Board of Nursing for its consideration for adoption.

2. Respondent understands that by the signing of this Stipulation she voluntarily and knowingly waives her rights, including: the right to a hearing on the allegations against her, at which time the state has the burden of proving those allegations by a preponderance of the evidence; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her; the right to call witnesses on her behalf and to compel their attendance by subpoena; the right to testify herself; 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 her under the United States Constitution, the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin Statutes, and the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

3. Respondent is aware of her right to seek legal representation and has been provided the opportunity to seek legal advice prior to signing this stipulation.

4. Respondent agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by the Board of Nursing. 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. Respondent waives all rights to any appeal of the Board's order, if adopted in the form as attached.

5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Board, the parties shall not be bound by the contents of this Stipulation, 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 the Board has been prejudiced or biased in any manner by the consideration of this attempted resolution.

6. Attached to this Stipulation is the current licensure card of Respondent. 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 license of Respondent shall be returned to her with a notice of the Board's decision not to accept the Stipulation.

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.

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

Suzanne I. Thorsen
Suzanne I. Thorsen

12/8/92
Date

James W. Harris
James W. Harris, Attorney
Division of Enforcement

12/15/92
Date

jwh

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 January 11, 1993.