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STATE OF WISCONSIN BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

PAULA M. STRAIT, D.O.,
RESPONDENT.

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
92 MED 136

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

Paula M. Strait, D.O.
P.O. Box 450394
Atlanta, Georgia ~~53581~~ 30320

Wisconsin Medical Examining Board
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8935

Department of Regulation and Licensing
Division of Enforcement
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, Wisconsin 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. Paula M. Strait, D.O., the respondent herein, (D.O.B. 7-08-58) is duly licensed in the state of Wisconsin as a physician (license #28285). This license was first granted on April 10, 1987. Dr. Strait practices family medicine.

2. Dr. Strait's latest address on file with the Department of Regulation and Licensing is 1313 West Seminary, Richland Center, Wisconsin, 53581. Her current mailing address is P.O. Box 450394, Atlanta, Georgia ~~53581~~.

3. On November 16, 1989, Dr. Strait was caring for a woman who was in labor. Early that morning, the fetal monitor indicated decelerations of the baby's heart rate.

4. Dr. Strait failed to timely recognize the decelerations as a sign that the woman's baby was in distress. Dr. Strait also failed to take the steps necessary to alleviate that distress, including but not limited to assessing the patient, consulting with another physician, and arranging for

delivery by cesarean section or transferring the patient to another facility.

5. The baby was born without a pulse or spontaneous respirations. Efforts to induce spontaneous respiration were unsuccessful. The baby died several days later when artificial life support was ended.

6. The conduct described above constituted practice beneath the minimal standards of competence.

7. The conduct described above posed an unacceptable risk to the health and welfare of the patient.

8. In October, 1995, Dr. Strait successfully completed a comprehensive, two-day course titled "Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics" offered by the American Academy of Family Physicians and sponsored by the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Strait earned 15 Category I continuing medical education credits at the aforementioned course.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Medical Examining Board has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Wis. Stats. §448.02(3).

2. The Wisconsin Medical Examining Board has authority to enter into this stipulated resolution pursuant to Wis. Stats. §227.44(5).

3. The acts and omissions of Dr. Strait that are set forth in the Findings of Fact constitute unprofessional conduct in violation of Wis. Adm. Code §MED 10.02(2)(h).

ORDER

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

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Dr. Strait's license to practice medicine and surgery in the state of Wisconsin (license #28285) is LIMITED in that she shall submit to the Board or the Board's designee within ninety (90) days after the effective date of this order proof satisfactory to the Board or its designee that she has attended in their entirety and satisfactorily completed a minimum of fifteen (15) hours of Category I continuing medical education in the area of obstetrics.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Dr. Strait may apply the credits she earned at the October, 1995 "Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics" course toward satisfaction of this Order if, no later than (30) days after the effective date of this Order, she submits to the Board or the Board's designee certification that she has attended the aforementioned course. Any other credits Dr. Strait applies toward satisfaction of this Order must be pre-approved by the Board or the Board's designee before taking the continuing medical education credits.

I, Paula M. Strait, D.O., the respondent herein, having read this Stipulation and the attached Final Decision and Order, voluntarily and knowingly enter into this Stipulation.

Strait DO
Paula M. Strait, D.O.

1/22/96
Date

Peter Sammataro
Peter Sammataro, Attorney
Division of Enforcement

01-25-96
Date

wpppss-241

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.

Serve Petition for Rehearing or Judicial Review on:

STATE OF WISCONSIN MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

1400 East Washington Avenue

P.O. Box 8935

Madison, WI 53708.

The Date of Mailing this Decision is:

February 23, 1996

1. REHEARING

Any person aggrieved by this order may file a written petition for rehearing within 20 days after service of this order, as provided in sec. 227.49 of the *Wisconsin Statutes*, a copy of which is reprinted on side two of this sheet. The 20 day period commences the day of personal service or mailing of this decision. (The date of mailing this decision is shown above.)

A petition for rehearing should name as respondent and be filed with the party identified in the box above.

A petition for rehearing is not a prerequisite for appeal or review.

2. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

Any person aggrieved by this decision may petition for judicial review as specified in sec. 227.53, *Wisconsin Statutes* a copy of which is reprinted on side two of this sheet. By law, a petition for review must be filed in circuit court and should name as the respondent the party listed in the box above. A copy of the petition for judicial review should be served upon the party listed in the box above.

A petition must be filed within 30 days after service of this decision if there is no petition for rehearing, or within 30 days after service of the order finally disposing of a petition for rehearing, or within 30 days after the final disposition by operation of law of any petition for rehearing.

The 30-day period for serving and filing a petition commences on the day after personal service or mailing of the decision by the agency, or the day after the final disposition by operation of the law of any petition for rehearing. (The date of mailing this decision is shown above.)