

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

FILE COPY

IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

RUTH M. COPSEY, R.N.,
RESPONDENT.

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
97 NUR 007

LS9807096NUR

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

Ruth M. Copsey
109 S. West Street
P.O. Box 118
Mt. Hope, WI 53816

Wisconsin 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. Ruth M. Copsey (D.O.B. 10/24/55) is duly licensed in the state of Wisconsin as a registered nurse (license # 117524). This license was first granted on August 17, 1994.
2. Respondent's latest address on file with the Department of Regulation and Licensing is 109 S. West Street, Mount Hope, WI 53816.
3. At all times relative to this action Respondent was employed as a registered nurse at the Boscobel Area Health Care Center.

4 On 9/02/95 Respondent received a verbal physician's order to administer Lorazepam 1 mg. PO. Respondent wrote the order as Lorazepam 1 ml, IV and administered the dosage which was equal to 4 mg of the drug. Respondent then re-wrote the order without authorization.

5. On 11/08/96 Respondent signed out a 10 mg dose of injectable morphine in another nurse's name for patient WW, on a controlled substance administration record that was for Demerol only.

6. On 8/22/96, 9/09/96, 9/16/96, 10/07/96, 10/18/96 and 11/07/96 propoxyphene was reported missing from locked medication cabinets during shifts and in areas of the medical facility in which Respondent was working. Respondent, among others, was responsible for the security and documentation of the controlled substances. Respondent denies diverting any of the drugs and has no explanation for their disappearance. Respondent has voluntarily participated in an AODA evaluation which resulted in a finding of no symptoms of chemical abuse or dependence.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

By the conduct described above, Ruth M. Copsey 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 (e), and N 7.04(2), (5) and (15).

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that :

1. Ruth M. Copsey is REPRIMANDED.
3. The rights of a party aggrieved by this Decision to petition the Board for rehearing and to petition for judicial review are set forth on the attached "Notice of Appeal Information".
4. This Order shall become effective upon the date of its signing.

WISCONSIN BOARD OF NURSING

By: 
A Member of the Board

9 JUL 98
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF :
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST :

RUTH M. COPSEY, R.N., :
RESPONDENT. :

STIPULATION
97 NUR 007

It is hereby stipulated between the above Respondent and the undersigned prosecuting attorney for the Division of Enforcement of the Department of Regulation and Licensing, 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 agreement and without the issuance of a formal complaint.

2. Respondent understands that by signing this Stipulation, respondent waives the following rights with respect to disciplinary proceedings: the right to a statement of the allegations against respondent; 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 respondent; the right to call witnesses on respondent's 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 to respondent under the United States Constitution, the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin Statutes, and the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

3. Respondent is aware of respondent's right to seek legal representation and has been provided the opportunity to seek legal advice before signing this Stipulation.

4. Respondent agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by the Board. The parties 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 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 the Board has been prejudiced or biased in any manner by the consideration of this attempted resolution.

6. The parties agree that an attorney for the Division of Enforcement may appear before the Board, in open or closed session, without the presence of Respondent or Respondent's attorney, for the purposes of speaking in support of this agreement and answering questions that the members of the Board and its staff may have in connection with their deliberations on the case.

7. The Board Advisor in this matter may participate freely in any deliberations of the Board regarding acceptance of this Stipulation and the proposed Final Order, and may relate to the Board any knowledge and view of the case acquired during the investigation.

8. This stipulation is subject to approval by the Division of Enforcement's attorney-supervisor. If approved by the supervisor, the Division of Enforcement joins Respondent in recommending that the Board adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.

9. Attached to this Stipulation is Respondent's licensure card. Upon issuance of an Order Respondent's license shall be reissued pursuant to the terms of the Order. Should the Board reject the Stipulation, Respondent's licensure card will be returned.

10. Also attached to this Stipulation are copies of Respondent's current health records for consideration by the Board.

11. Respondent is informed that should the Board adopt this stipulation, the Board's final decision and order is a public record and will be published in the monthly *Report of Decisions* issued by the department. A summary of the order will be published in the *Wisconsin Regulatory Digest* issued semiannually by the Board. This is standard department procedure and in no way specially directed at Respondent.

Ruth M Copsey RN 5-20-98
Respondent Date

James [Signature] May 26, 1998
Prosecuting Attorney Date
Division of Enforcement

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION AND LICENSING
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of the Disciplinary Proceedings Against

Ruth M. Copsey, R.N.,

AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING

Respondent.

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
)
COUNTY OF DANE)

I, Kate Rotenberg, having been duly sworn on oath, state the following to be true and correct based on my personal knowledge:

1. I am employed by the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing.
2. On July 13, 1998, I served the Final Decision and Order dated July 9, 1998, LS9807096NUR, upon the Respondent Ruth M. Copsey, R.N. by enclosing a true and accurate copy of the above-described document in an envelope properly stamped and addressed to the above-named Respondent and placing the envelope in the State of Wisconsin mail system to be mailed by the United States Post Office by certified mail. The certified mail receipt number on the envelope is Z 233 819 547.
3. The address used for mailing the Decision is the address that appears in the records of the Department as the Respondent's last-known address and is:

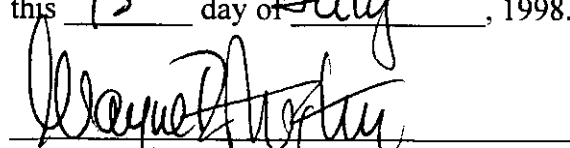
Ruth M. Copsey, R.N.
109 S. West Street
P.O. Box 118
Mt. Hope WI 53816



Kate Rotenberg
Department of Regulation and Licensing
Office of Legal Counsel

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this 13th day of July, 1998.



Notary Public, State of Wisconsin
My commission is permanent.

NOTICE OF RIGHTS OF APPEAL

TO: RUTH M COPSEY RN

You have been issued a Final Decision and Order. For purposes of service the date of mailing of this Final Decision and Order is 7/13/98. Your rights to request a rehearing and/or judicial review are summarized below and set forth fully in the statutes reprinted on the reverse side.

A. 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 section 227.49 of the Wisconsin Statutes. The 20 day period commences on the day of personal service or the date of mailing of this decision. The date of mailing of this Final Decision is shown above.

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

A petition for rehearing shall specify in detail the grounds for relief sought and supporting authorities. Rehearing will be granted only on the basis of some material error of law, material error of fact, or new evidence sufficiently strong to reverse or modify the Order which could not have been previously discovered by due diligence. The agency may order a rehearing or enter an order disposing of the petition without a hearing. If the agency does not enter an order disposing of the petition within 30 days of the filing of the petition, the petition shall be deemed to have been denied at the end of the 30 day period.

A petition for rehearing is not a prerequisite for judicial review.

B. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

Any person aggrieved by this decision may petition for judicial review as specified in section 227.53, Wisconsin Statutes (copy on reverse side). The petition for judicial review must be filed in circuit court where the petitioner resides, except if the petitioner is a non-resident of the state, the proceedings shall be in the circuit court for Dane County. The petition should name as the respondent the Department, Board, Examining Board, or Affiliated Credentialing Board which issued the Final Decision and Order. A copy of the petition for judicial review must also be served upon the respondent at the address listed below.

A petition for judicial review must be served personally or by certified mail on the respondent and filed with the court within 30 days after service of the Final Decision and Order 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. Courts have held that the right to judicial review of administrative agency decisions is dependent upon strict compliance with the requirements of sec. 227.53 (1) (a), Stats. This statute requires, among other things, that a petition for review be served upon the agency and be filed with the clerk of the circuit court within the applicable thirty day period.

The 30 day period for serving and filing a petition for judicial review commences on the day after personal service or mailing of the Final Decision and Order by the agency, or, if a petition for rehearing has been timely filed, the day after personal service or mailing of a final decision or disposition by the agency of the petition for rehearing, or the day after the final disposition by operation of the law of a petition for rehearing. The date of mailing of this Final Decision and Order is shown above.

The petition shall state the nature of the petitioner's interest, the facts showing that the petitioner is a person aggrieved by the decision, and the grounds specified in section 227.57, Wisconsin Statutes, upon which the petitioner contends that the decision should be reversed or modified. The petition shall be entitled in the name of the person serving it as Petitioner and the Respondent as described below.

SERVE PETITION FOR REHEARING OR JUDICIAL REVIEW ON:

STATE OF WISCONSIN BOARD OF NURSING

1400 East Washington Avenue

P.O. Box 8935

Madison WI 53708-8935