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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF

DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

MARY E. TRAHAN, R.N.,

Respondent

ORDER GRANTING PETITION IN PART

On November 29, 1997, the Board of Nursing issued its Final Decision and Order in the above-captioned matter. By the terms of the board's order, respondent's license was suspended for an indefinite period. The Order provided that respondent could petition the board for a stay of the suspension upon providing the board with an evaluation by a licensed physician attesting to respondent's current ability to safely practice professional nursing.

By letter dated December 9, 1997, respondent petitioned for a stay of the suspension of her license. Included with her petition were letters from Greg Gaffke, Ms. Trahan's therapist at United Behavioral health, Wauwatosa; Jane Casseus, Ms. Trahan's therapist at Southeastern Wisconsin medical & Social Services, Wauwatosa; and Kumari Chintamaneni, M.D, Ms. Trahan's physician. Each of them recommended that the suspension of Ms. Trahan's license be stayed. The board considered the petition at its meeting of January 30, 1998. The board granted the petition by its Order dated February 10, 1998.

By letter dated June 29, 1998, Alicia Noonon, Trahan's therapist, requested that the board substitute breathalyzer screens for urine screens, or at least intersperse breathalyzer screens with urine screens. The stated basis for the request was to ease the financial burden on Ms. Trahan. The board considered the request at its meeting of July 9, 1998, and denied the request by its order dated July 18, 1998.

On January 29, 1999, the board considered Ms. Trahan's request for a further three month stay of the suspension of her license, and her further request that the requirements for urine screens and therapy be terminated. The board considered the request on that date and orders as follows:

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the suspension of the license of Mary Trahan to practice professional nursing in Wisconsin is hereby stayed for a further period of three months.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the number of urine screens required under the board's November 29, 1997, Final Decision and Order be reduced from four per month to two per month.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the number of therapy sessions required under the board's November 29, 1997, Final Decision and Order be reduced from four per month to two per month.

DISCUSSION

Ms. Trahan notes in her letter asking that she be relieved from the requirements for urine screens and therapy that she has participated in these activities since March, 1997. That is a sufficiently long period of compliance to justify a reduction, but is not sufficiently long to justify dropping these important rehabilitative safeguards altogether.

Dated this 7th day of February, 1999.

STATE OF WISCONSIN

BOARD OF NURSING

by Timothy D. Burns, CRNA

Chairman