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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF

DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

JOANN A. PALMER, RN,

Respondent

ORDER GRANTING REQUESTS

On January 30, 1998, 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 to practice as a registered nurse in Wisconsin was suspended for an indefinite period, with provision for successive three-month stays of the suspension conditioned upon compliance with certain conditions and limitations on the license. Among these were that respondent participate in a recognized program for the treatment of chemical dependency, that she participate in psychotherapy a minimum of once each week, and that she participate in program of random witnessed monitoring for controlled substances and alcohol in her blood or urine on a frequency of not less than once each week.

By letter dated July 2, 1998, respondent requested that the frequency of required therapy and of required urine screens be reduced during the period of time in which she is not working due to the GM strike. The board considered the request at its meeting of July 9, 1998, and ordered that required drug screens and therapy sessions each be temporarily reduced to two per month.

On September 18, 1998, the board considered Ms. Palmer's request that urine screens and therapy sessions each be permanently reduced to one per month. By its Order dated September 28, 1998, the board denied the request, but permanently reduced the number of urine screens and therapy sessions to two per month.

On March 5, 1999, the board considered Ms. Palmer's request for a further three month stay of the suspension of her license. The board also considered evidence that she had relapsed for a period between February 17 and 21, 1998. The board denied the stay by its Order dated March 8, 1999.

By letter dated June 14, 1999, Ms. Palmer petitioned the board for reinstatement of the stay of suspension of her license. In support of her petition, Ms. Palmer included letters of reference from her supervisors and co-workers at her place of employment, and verification of her attendance at A.A. The board considered the petition at its meeting of July 9, 1999, and denied the stay by its Order dated July 23, 1999.

Ms. Palmer appeared before the board in support of her further petition for a stay of the suspension on September 17, 1999. The stay was granted by the board's Order dated September 23, 1999.

On May 19, the board considered Ms. Palmer's request for a further three month stay, and her further request that she be granted permission to have access to and to administer controlled substances in her employment setting. Based upon the requests and all other information of record herein, the board orders as follows:

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the request of JoAnn A. Palmer, R.N., for a further three month stay of the suspension of her license is granted, and the suspension is stayed for a period of three months. Ms. Palmer may petition for further stays of the suspension upon submission of evidence that she has complied with the terms and conditions on her license during the previous three months.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Ms. Palmer's request that the provision of the board's order by which she is required to refrain from access to or administration of controlled substances in her work setting be terminated is granted, and Ms. Palmer may have access to and may administer controlled substances in her employment as a professional nurse.

Dated this 6th day of June, 2000.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BOARD OF NURSING

by _____

Ann Brewer, R.N.

Chair