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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF

DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

PAULA J. THOMAS, R.N.,

Respondent

ORDER GRANTING STAY

On May 14, 1999, 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 her continued compliance with limitations on her license. Among these are that respondent participate in an approved drug treatment program, abstain from the use of alcohol and controlled substances and submit to drug screens on at least a weekly basis.

On November 5, 1999, the board considered evidence that respondent has violated the board's Order on two occasions by relapsing to the use of controlled substances and by failure to submit to the minimum number of required drug screens in July, 1999. Under the board's Order, violation of any of the terms of the board's Order shall be construed as conduct **-imperiling public health, safety and welfare and may result in** summary suspension of respondent's license. Accordingly, the board suspended the license by its Order dated November 11, 1999.

By letters dated December 27, 1999, and March 1, 2000, Ms. Thomas requested reinstatement of the stay of the suspension of her license. The board considered the request at its meeting of March 3, 2000, and granted the request by its Order dated March 10, 2000.

On July 7, 2000, the board considered Ms. Thomas' request for a further three month stay, and her request that the number of required therapy sessions and urine screens each be reduced to two per month. Based upon those requests, and upon other information of record herein, the board orders as follows:

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the suspension of the license of Paula J. Thomas, R.N., to practice as a professional nurse in Wisconsin is stayed for a period of three months. Ms. Thomas may petition for further three month stays of the suspension, which shall be granted upon evidence of full compliance with the terms and conditions of the board's May 14, 1999, Final decision and Order during the preceding three month period.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the number of required therapy sessions be, and hereby is, reduced to two per month.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Ms. Thomas' request that the number of required urine screens be reduced to two per month is denied.

DISCUSSION

Ms. Thomas therapist recommends that the number of counseling sessions be reduced, but that the number of required urine screens remain unchanged. The board hereby follows that recommendation.

Dated this 19th day of July, 2000.

STATE OF WISCONSIN BOARD OF NURSING

by

Ann Brewer, R.N.,

Chair