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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

JULIE GUNNESS LEWIS, R.N.,

ORDER DENYING PETITION

Respondent

On September 10, 1993, 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. By the terms of the board's Order, Ms. Lewis was permitted to petition for a stay of the suspension after thirty days, upon documentation of evidence of abstinence from alcohol and controlled substances for at least 60 days, and documentation of participation in a drug treatment program for a like period.

By letter dated March 22, 1994, Ms. Lewis petitioned for a stay and the board considered the request on May 6, 1994. The board denied the stay by its Order dated May 17, 1994.

On May 3, 2001, the board considered Ms. Lewis' further request for a stay of the suspension of her license. The board also considered information confirming that Ms. Lewis is undergoing methadone therapy. Based upon Ms. Lewis' request, and upon other information of record herein, it is ordered as follows:

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the request of Julie Lewis, RN, for a stay of the suspension of her license is hereby denied.

DISCUSSION

Ms. Lewis indicated in her correspondence with the board that methadone is being prescribed for pain as well as a component of her drug treatment program. The board has long taken the position that methadone drug treatment programs are not acceptable, and the fact that the drug may also be prescribed for pain does not alter the fact that she is participating in an unacceptable drug treatment program. Ms. Lewis may renew her petition at such time that that situation changes.

Dated this 15th day of May, 2001.

STATE OF WISCONSIN

BOARD OF NURSING

Ann Brewer, RN

Chair