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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

DEBORAH KARIN SARNA, LPN,

ORDER TERMINATING STAY

Respondent

On March 3, 2000, 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 licensed practical 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 per week.

By letter dated September 11, 2000, respondent requested a further three month stay of the suspension of her license, and requested as well that the limitations on her license be modified to reduce the number of required therapy sessions and urine screens to one each two weeks. By its Order dated November 14, 2000, the board granted the stay, but denied the request for modification of the limitations.

On January 5, 2001, the board granted Ms. Sarna's request for a further three month stay.

On April 6, 2001, the board considered Ms. Sarna's letter of March 20, 2001, by which she notifies the board that she is no longer employed to provide clinical services except in collecting data for nursing assessments, but is instead working in the medical records department of her employer. Ms. Sarna indicates that because she is not seeing patients or handling medications, and because of the expense of fully complying with the board's Order, she has stopped doing urine screens except those required by the terms of her probation, and has not been seeing her health care provider. Ms. Sarna requests that she be permitted to retain her LPN license in order to permit her to continue with her data collection duties.

Based upon Ms. Sarna's request, and other information of record herein, the board orders as follows:

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Ms. Sarna's request for a further stay of the suspension of her license is denied, and the license is hereby suspended.

DISCUSSION

The board has a certain amount of sympathy for Ms. Sarna's situation, and would certainly have entertained her request for some modification of the terms of her limited license during a period when she was refraining from the practice of nursing. Instead, she unilaterally decided to decline to comply with the terms and conditions placed on her license, and that is not acceptable. At such time as Ms. Sarna wishes to return to practice, and conditioned upon her establishing to the satisfaction of the board that she has resumed compliance with the board's Order, the board will entertain her petition for a further stay of the suspension of her license.

Dated this 12th day of April, 2001.

STATE OF WISCONSIN

BOARD OF NURSING

Ann Brewer, R.N.

Chair

