

# WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



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STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

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IN THE MATTER OF  
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST:

RUTH ANN REISIMER, R.N.,  
RESPONDENT

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER  
LS0005231NUR

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**00 NUR 103**

The parties to this action for the purposes of § 227.53, Wis. Stats., are:

Ruth Ann Reisimer  
3022 North 87<sup>th</sup> Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53222

Wisconsin Board of Nursing  
P.O. Box 8935  
Madison, WI 53708-8935

Department of Regulation and Licensing  
Division of Enforcement  
P.O. Box 8935  
Madison, WI 53708-8935

The parties in this matter agree to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final decision of this matter, subject to the approval of the Board. The Board has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

Accordingly, the Board in this matter adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Respondent, Ruth Ann Reisimer (D.O.B. 08/07/66) is duly licensed to practice as a registered nurse in the State of Wisconsin (license # 030 103954) which license was first granted March 16, 1990.
2. Respondent's latest address on file with the Department of Regulation and Licensing is 3022 North 87<sup>th</sup> Street, Milwaukee, WI 53222.
3. Since prior to March 16, 1990, Respondent has been diagnosed with major depression, recurrent, severe, with dissociative traits, and borderline personality disorder. Respondent's condition is manifested by erratic-compulsive behavior including occasional incidents of self-mutilation and suicidal gestures. Respondent has not intentionally attempted to harm another person. Management of Respondent's condition requires frequent therapy and continued medication with close monitoring for compliance and to detect an increase of symptoms which may require an alteration of treatment.
4. In December, 1999, and in March, 2000, Respondent was voluntarily hospitalized after she experienced

recurrent urges to harm herself and began to cut her extremities with a razor blade. On these occasions Respondent exhibited violent behavior when medical personnel attempted to intervene. According to Respondent's health care providers Respondent's conduct was triggered by various stressors that occurred at a time when Respondent was not compliant with her medication regime.

5. Respondent has been employed as a private care nurse for children, including developmentally disabled children.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

6. The Wisconsin Board of Nursing has jurisdiction to act in this matter pursuant to §441.07(1)(b)(c) and(d) Wis. Stats. and is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation pursuant to §227.44(5), Wis. Stats.

#### ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that the attached Stipulation is accepted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that effective on the date of this Order, the license of Ruth Ann Reisimer to practice as a registered nurse in the state of Wisconsin is LIMITED, as follows:

#### **REHABILITATION, MONITORING AND TREATMENT**

##### **Treatment Required**

1. Respondent shall continue successful participation in all components of a mental health treatment program as Respondent's Supervising Health Care Provider shall determine to be appropriate for Respondent's condition. Respondent shall maintain a single Supervising Health Care provider and prescribing physician for her mental health care. The Supervising Health Care Provider shall be a physician licensed to practice in Wisconsin with a specialty in psychiatry. Respondent may continue to receive medical care from her personal physician, provided that such physician shall promptly notify the Supervising Health Care Provider of any medications prescribed.

Therapy. The rehabilitation program shall include and Respondent shall participate in individual and/or group therapy sessions upon a schedule as recommended by the supervising physician or therapist. Such therapy shall be conducted by the supervising physician or therapist, or another qualified physician or therapist as designated by the supervising physician or therapist. This requirement for therapy sessions may be terminated only upon written petition, and a written recommendation by the supervising physician or therapist expressly supporting *termination* of therapy sessions. A denial of such petition for modification shall not be deemed a denial of the license under §§ 227.01(3) or 227.42, Wis. Stats., or ch. RL 1, Wis. Adm. Code, and shall not be subject to any right to further hearing or appeal.

##### **Sobriety**

2. Respondent shall abstain from all personal use of controlled substances as defined in Sec. 961.01(4), Stats. except when necessitated by a legitimate medical condition and then only with the prior approval of the Supervising Health Care Provider ( or the prior approval of Respondent's personal physician with prompt notification to the Supervising Health Care Provider).

3. Respondent shall abstain from all personal use of alcohol.

4. Respondent shall in addition refrain from the consumption of over-the-counter medications or other substances which may mask consumption of controlled substances or of alcohol, or which may interfere with respondent's treatment and rehabilitation. With the exception of aspirin Motrin and Tylenol, Respondent shall report all medications and drugs, over-the-counter or prescription, taken by respondent to the Supervising Health Care Provider within 24 hours of ingestion or administration, and shall identify the person or persons who prescribed, dispensed, administered or ordered said medications or drugs. The terms of this paragraph shall not be deemed to modify or negate Respondent's obligations as set forth in this Order.

##### **Department Monitor**

5. The Department Monitor is the individual designated by the Board as its agent to coordinate compliance with the terms of this Order, including receiving and coordinating all reports and petitions, and requesting additional monitoring and surveillance. The Department Monitor may be reached as follows:

Department Monitor  
Department of Regulation Division of Enforcement  
P.O. Box 8935  
Madison, WI 53708-8935  
FAX (608) 266-2264  
TEL. (608) 261-7938

### **Releases**

6. Respondent shall provide and keep on file with the Supervising Health Care Provider and all treatment facilities current releases which comply with state and federal laws authorizing release of all medical and treatment records and reports to, and permitting the Supervising Health Care Provider and all treating physicians and therapists to disclose and discuss the progress of respondent's treatment with the Board or any member thereof, or with any employee of the Department of Regulation and Licensing acting under the authority of the Board. Copies of these releases shall be filed simultaneously with the Department Monitor.

### **Required Reporting by Supervising Health Care Provider**

7. The Supervising Health Care Provider shall report immediately to the Department Monitor in the Department of Regulation and Licensing, Division of Enforcement by FAX or telephonic communication: any failure of Respondent to comply with therapy recommendations and/or medication, any failure of Respondent to comply with any provision of this Order, and any increase in symptoms of Respondent's condition which the Supervising Health Care Provider believes may result in an impaired ability of Respondent to safely or reliably practice as a nurse.

8. The Supervising Health Care Provider shall submit formal written reports to the Department Monitor in the Department of Regulation and Licensing, Division of Enforcement, P.O. Box 8935, Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8935 on a monthly basis, as directed by the Department Monitor. These reports shall assess Respondent's compliance and progress treatment and her current status. The Supervising Health Care Provider shall report immediately to the Department Monitor [Division of Enforcement, P.O. Box 8935, Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8935, FAX (608) 266-2264, telephone no. (608) 261-7938] any violation or suspected violation of the Board's Final Decision and Order.

### **Required reporting by Respondent**

9. Respondent is responsible for compliance with all of the terms and conditions of this Final Decision and Order. It is the responsibility of Respondent to promptly notify the Department Monitor, of any suspected violations of any of the terms and conditions of this Order, including any failures of the Supervising Health Care Provider or treatment facility, to conform to the terms and conditions of this Order.

### **PETITIONS FOR MODIFICATION OF TERMS**

10. Respondent may petition the Board for modification of the terms of this limited license . Any such petition shall be accompanied by a written recommendation from Respondent's Supervising Health Care Provider expressly supporting the specific modifications sought. Denial of the petition in whole or in part shall not be considered a denial of a license within the meaning of Sec. 227.01(3)(a), Stats. and Respondent shall not have a right to any further hearings or proceedings on any denial in whole or in part of the petition for modification of the limited license. After four years of continuous active professional practice under this Order, without a violation of its terms and conditions, and upon the written recommendation of the Supervising Health Care Provider, Respondent may petition the Board for a termination of all limitations on the license, and restoration of an unlimited license, which request shall not be unreasonably refused.

### **EXPENSES OF TREATMENT AND MONITORING**

11. Respondent shall be responsible for all costs and expenses incurred in conjunction with treatment, monitoring and supervision and any other expenses associated with compliance with the terms of this Order.

### **PRACTICE LIMITATIONS**

**Placement.**

12. Respondent shall practice only under the general supervision of a licensed professional nurse or other licensed health care professional in a work setting approved by the Board or its designated agent. Respondent's current work setting is approved by the Board. Respondent shall arrange for her nursing supervisor to provide written reports to the Department Monitor on a quarterly basis, as directed. These reports shall confirm Respondent's satisfactory employment status.

13. In the event that Respondent's Supervising Health Care Provider shall determine in his or her clinical judgment that Respondent's current symptoms demonstrate an impaired ability of Respondent to safely and reliably perform her nursing duties, Respondent shall immediately cease to practice as a nurse until in the Provider's professional judgment Respondent may safely and reliably do so. In such event, the Supervising Health Care Provider shall immediately notify the Department Monitor of the decision and Respondent's compliance.

**Change in Address or Work Status**

14. Respondent shall report to the Board any change of employment status, residence, address or telephone number within five (5) days of the date of a change.

15. Respondent shall furnish a copy of this Order to all present employers immediately upon issuance of this Order, and to any prospective employer when respondent applies for employment as a health care provider.

**Violation of any of the terms of this Order shall be construed as conduct imperiling public health, safety and welfare and may result in a summary suspension of Respondent's license.**

This Order shall become effective upon the date of its signing.

WISCONSIN BOARD OF NURSING

By: Ann Brewer

6-1-01

Board Chair

Date