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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 AND
MODIFYING LIMITATIONS

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 had 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. The board granted the decrease in the number of therapy sessions, but denied the request for a reduction in the number of required urine screens.

By her letter dated October 11, 2000, Ms. Thomas requested a further stay of the suspension of her license, and again requested that the number of urine screens be reduced. The board granted the requests by its Order dated November 14, 2000.

By letter dated February 22, 2001, Ms. Thomas requested a further three month stay of the suspension of her license. The board granted the stay.

On June 1, 2001, the board considered Ms. Thomas' request for a termination of all the limitations on her license. Based upon Ms. Thomas' petition, and upon all 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, as modified hereby, during the preceding three month period.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that paragraph 25 of the board's Final Decision and Order in this matter is hereby modified to permit Ms. Thomas access to and administration of controlled substances in her employment setting.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the requirement that Ms. Thomas participate in therapy is hereby terminated.

Dated this 8th day of June, 2001.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BOARD OF NURSING

Ann Brewer, R.N.
Chair