

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE VETERINARY EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF

THE APPLICATION FOR A LICENSE OF

CHRISTOPHER R. WELCH, D.V.M.	ORDER ADOPTING STIPULATION
Applicant	

On or about February 15, 2002, Dr. Welch filed his application for a license to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Wisconsin. Because Dr. Welch indicated on his application that he had three of alcohol related convictions, the application was reviewed by the entire board on May 15, 2002.

The board and Dr. Welch thereafter entered into a Stipulation, by which the Veterinary Examining Board (board) agreed to grant and Christopher R. Welch, D.V.M. (applicant) agreed to accept, a limited license to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Wisconsin. Based upon that Stipulation, it is ordered as follows:

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that applicant is hereby granted a limited license to practice veterinary medicine imposing the following terms and conditions:

1. The term of the license shall be for three months. Dr. Welch may petition for three month renewals of the license, and such petitions shall be granted upon submission of satisfactory evidence that Dr. Welch has complied with the conditions and limitations imposed during the prior three (3) month period.
2. The Board may without hearing deny an application for renewal of the license, or commence other appropriate action, upon receipt of information that Dr. Welch has violated any of the terms or conditions of the Board's order adopting the terms of this Stipulation. If the Board denies the petition by Dr. Welch for a renewal, the Board shall afford an opportunity for hearing in accordance with the procedures set forth in ch. RL 1, Wis. Adm. Code upon timely receipt of a request for hearing.
3. Upon a showing by Dr. Welch of continuous, successful compliance for a period of at least five years of active practice with the terms of the Board's order and compliance with all other terms of the order, the Board may grant a petition by Dr. Welch for full licensure.

Treatment Required

4. Dr. Welch shall participate in individual and/or group therapy sessions with a therapist satisfactory to the board for the first year of the license upon a schedule as recommended by the therapist, but not less than once monthly. Such therapy shall be conducted by the therapist, or another qualified therapist as designated by the therapist and acceptable to the Board. After the first year, this requirement for therapy sessions may be modified only upon written petition, and a written recommendation by the therapist expressly supporting the modifications sought. 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.

5. Dr. Welch shall attend Narcotics Anonymous and/or Alcoholic Anonymous meetings or an equivalent program for recovering professionals, upon a frequency as recommended by the supervising physician or therapist, but not less than one meeting per week. Attendance of Dr. Welch at such meetings shall be verified and reported monthly to the therapist.

Sobriety

6. Dr. Welch shall abstain from all personal use of controlled substances as defined in Sec. 161.01(4), Stats. except when necessitated by a legitimate medical condition and then only with the prior approval of the Supervising Health Care Provider. Dr. Welch shall maintain a single prescribing physician and shall obtain prescription and controlled drugs from a single pharmacy.

7. Dr. Welch shall abstain from all personal use of alcohol.

8. Dr. Welch 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 create false positive screening results, or which may interfere with Dr. Welch's treatment and rehabilitation. Dr. Welch shall report all medications and drugs, over-the-counter or prescription, taken by Dr. Welch to the department monitor within 24 hours of ingestion or administration, and shall identify the person or persons who prescribed, dispensed, administered or ordered said medications or drugs. Within 24 hours of a request by the Board or its designee, Dr. Welch shall provide releases which comply with state and federal laws authorizing release of all health care records by the person who prescribed, dispensed, administered or ordered this medication for Dr. Welch. These releases shall also authorize the Board or its designee to discuss Dr. Welch's health care with the person who prescribed, dispensed, administered or ordered this medication. The terms of this paragraph shall not be deemed to modify or negate Dr. Welch's obligations as set forth in this Order.

Department Monitor

9. 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) 267-3817

Required Reporting by Therapist

10. Dr. Welch is responsible for submission to the board through the department monitor of quarterly written reports prepared by his therapist setting forth Dr. Welch's activities and progress in therapy.

Petitions for Modification of Terms

11. Dr. Welch may petition the Board for modification of the terms of the limited license. Any such petition shall be accompanied by a written recommendation from Dr. Welch's therapist 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 Dr. Welch 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.

12. After five years of continuous active professional practice under the Board's order and without relapse, and upon recommendation of the therapist, Dr. Welch may petition the Board for a termination of all limitations on the license, and restoration of an unlimited license. Such restoration shall be in the sole discretion of the Board, and 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 Dr. Welch shall not have a right to any further hearings or proceedings on any denial in whole or in part of the petition for termination of the limitations and restoration of unlimited licensure.

Expenses of Treatment and Monitoring

13. Dr. Welch shall be responsible for all costs and expenses incurred in conjunction with the expenses associated with compliance with the terms of the Board's order.

Employment Reporting Required

14. Dr. Welch shall arrange for his employer, if any, to provide 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 quarterly basis, as directed by the Department Monitor. These reports shall assess Dr. Welch's work performance.

Change in Address or Work Status

15. Dr. Welch 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.

16. Dr. Welch shall furnish a copy of the Board's order to all present employers, if any, immediately upon issuance of the Order, and to any prospective employer when Dr. Welch applies for employment.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
VETERINARY EXAMINING BOARD

Diane Scott, DVM
Chair