

# 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 THE DISCIPLINARY :  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST :  
 : FINAL DECISION  
SARAH L TRAFFORD, RN, : AND ORDER  
RESPONDENT : LS0208093NUR

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Division of Enforcement Case No. 01 NUR 130

The parties to this action for the purposes of section 227.53 of the Wisconsin statutes are:

Sarah L. Trafford  
220 Irish Road  
Chilton, WI 53014

Board of Nursing  
PO Box 8935  
Madison, WI 53708-8935

Department of Regulation and Licensing  
Division of Enforcement  
PO Box 8935  
Madison, WI 53708-893 5

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

In the interest of resolving this matter, Respondent neither admits nor denies the allegations against her and consents to the entry of the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order.

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Sarah L. Trafford (D.O.B. 10/24/1952) is duly licensed as a registered nurse in the state of Wisconsin (license #127792). This license was first granted on 09/23/1997.
2. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Board of Nursing is 220 Irish Road, Chilton, WI 53014.

3. At all times relevant to this action, Respondent worked as acting Director of Nursing at Highland Health Care Center ["Highland"], 2997 Saint Anthony Drive, Green Bay, Wisconsin. Highland is a long-term care facility.
4. On or about March 9, 2001 Respondent participated in the transfer of EB, an elderly female resident of Highland. A certified nursing assistant assisted Respondent in transferring the resident. Respondent was the only nurse involved in the transfer of EB.
5. EB had recently been readmitted to Highland with diagnoses of dementia and diabetes. EB was confused, disoriented and totally dependent on staff to address needs of daily living. She rarely verbalized. In addition, EB had experienced a stroke resulting in paralysis of her left leg.
6. During the transfer of the patient, EB's left (paralyzed) leg caught on the mattress and twisted. Attending staff noted a cracking or "scrunching" sound. Respondent assumed that the sound emanated from EB's catheter bag.
7. Respondent failed to adequately assess EB's leg for injury and failed to timely chart the incident or report it to subsequent caregivers.
8. On or about March 10, 2001, hospital staff diagnosed a fracture of EB's left femur.
9. In resolution of this matter, Respondent consents to the issuance of the following Conclusions of Law and Order.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Board of Nursing has jurisdiction over this matter, pursuant to sec. 441.07, Stats.
2. The Wisconsin Board of Nursing is authorized to enter into the attached stipulation, pursuant to sec. 227.44(5), Stats.
3. By the conduct described above, Sarah L. Trafford is subject to disciplinary action against her Wisconsin nursing license, pursuant to sec. 441.07(1), Wis. Stats., and Wis. Admin. Code §§N7.03 (1) and N7.04.

#### **ORDER**

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Sarah L. Trafford RN (license #127792) is REPRIMANDED.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Wisconsin nursing license of Sarah L. Trafford (license #127792) is LIMITED as follows:

1. Respondent shall comply with all statutes and code provisions relating to the practice of nursing.

#### **Practice restrictions**

2. Until otherwise ordered by the Board
  - a. Respondent shall refrain from nursing employment as a pool nurse; and
  - b. Respondent shall refrain from nursing employment as a visiting nurse or other home care practitioner

#### **Required reporting**

3. For a period of at least one [1] year from the date of this Order, Respondent shall arrange for quarterly reports from her nursing employer(s) reporting the terms and conditions of her employment and evaluating her work performance. These reports shall be submitted to the Department Monitor in the Department of Regulation and Licensing Division of Enforcement.

4. Respondent shall notify the Department Monitor of any change of employment during the time in which the Order is in effect. Notification shall occur within fifteen (15) days of a change of employment and shall include an explanation of the reasons for the change.

## **Education/ training Requirement**

5. Respondent shall submit within six [6] months from the effective date of this Order, documentation of successful completion of at least twelve [12] hours of continuing nursing education approved by the Board in the subject areas of patient charting and legal aspects of nursing and six [6] hours in transferring, transporting and caring for dependent patients, or in other areas approved by the Board. To be acceptable, a course shall be pre-approved by a member or designated agent of the Board of Nursing. Acceptable documentation shall include certification from the sponsoring organization as well as a statement signed by Respondent verifying that she attended the course in its entirety.

## **Department Monitor**

6. The Department Monitor is the individual designated by the Board as its agent to coordinate compliance with the terms of this Order, including receiving reports and coordinating all requests for approval of education or other petitions. The Department Monitor may be reached as follows:

Department Monitor c/o Division of Enforcement

PU Box 8935, Madison

WI 53708-8935

TEL (608) 267-3817

FAX (608) 266-2264

## **Petition for Termination of restrictions**

7. Upon completion of: one [1] year of complete, successful and continuous compliance with the terms of this Order that includes one [1] year of nursing employment under the terms of this Order; Respondent may petition the Board to revise or eliminate any of the above conditions. Denial in whole or in part of a petition under this paragraph shall not constitute denial of a license and shall not give rise to a contested case within the meaning of Wis. Stats. §§ 227.01(3) and 227.42.

## **Agency Caregiver Finding**

8. If Respondent fails to fully and completely comply with all terms and conditions set forth above or if the Department receives a subsequent credible allegation against Respondent of abuse, neglect or misappropriation, the Department Monitor shall without further notice or hearing notify the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services that the findings set forth in this Order shall thereafter constitute an agency finding of neglect for the purposes of secs. 48.685 and 50.065, Wis. Stats. Respondent shall then REFRAIN from any nursing employment in any facility licensed by the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services until such time as Respondent successfully completes a rehabilitation review administered by DHFS.

## **SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

**9. Violation of any of the terms of this Order may in addition be construed as conduct imperiling public health, safety and welfare and may result in a summary suspension of Respondent's license pursuant to the procedures set forth in Wis. Admin. Code RL Ch. 6. The Board in its discretion may in the alternative impose additional conditions and limitations or other additional discipline for a violation of any of the terms of this Order.**

## **Effective date of Order**

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

By: Linda M. Sanner

08-09-02

On behalf of the Board

Date