

# WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



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STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST AFFILIATED CREDENTIALING BOARD

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IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY :  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST :  
 : FINAL DECISION AND ORDER  
LAURA D. HOKANSON, O.T., : LS0212122OTB  
RESPONDENT. :

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Division of Enforcement File No. 02 OTB 5

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

Laura D. Hokanson, OT  
N2398 Du Borg Rd.  
Columbus, WI 53925

Wisconsin Occupational Therapist Affiliated Credentialing Board  
1400 E. Washington Ave.  
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 Wisconsin Occupational Therapist Affiliated Credentialing Board received a Stipulation submitted by the parties to the above-captioned matter. The Stipulation, a copy of which is attached hereto, was entered into between Laura D. Hokanson, O.T., and Pamela M. Stach, attorney for the Department of Regulation and Licensing, Division of Enforcement. Based upon the Stipulation of the parties, the Wisconsin Occupational Therapist Affiliated Credentialing Board makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Laura D. Hokanson, O.T., N2398 Du Borg Rd., Columbus, Wisconsin, 53925 was born on October 22, 1971, and has been licensed and currently registered to practice as an occupational therapist in the State of Wisconsin since October 27, 1995, credential # 2466.

2. On February 4, 2002, Respondent saw Resident L.B. for an occupational therapy session. Respondent placed hot packs on both Resident L.B.'s left and right shoulders on top of her clothing and instructed Resident L.B. to let the Respondent know if the hot packs were too hot. This was the first occupational therapy session with Resident L.B. that Respondent had used hot packs prior to therapy.
3. After three to five minutes, the Respondent removed the hot packs and checked Resident L.B.'s left and right shoulders. Respondent did not notice any redness and the hot packs were reapplied on top of Resident L.B.'s clothing.
4. The hot packs were left on both Resident L.B.'s left and right shoulders for approximately 15 to 20 minutes.
5. Respondent then removed the hot packs, performed range of motion exercises on both of Resident L.B.'s shoulders, and instructed Resident L.B. in range of motion exercises for her wrists, hands, and all digits.
6. Respondent did not check Resident L.B.'s left and right shoulders after the occupational therapy session was completed.
7. Resident L.B. suffered extensive second degree burns on both her right and left shoulders from the hot packs.
8. Resident L.B. suffers from syringomyelia and is unable to feel hot and cold sensations on her skin.
9. Hot packs utilized during occupational therapy are required to be placed in a cloth cover or wrapped in six to eight towels before being applied to a Resident.
10. Respondent did not wrap the hot packs in any type of covering before they were applied to Resident L.B.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Occupational Therapist Affiliated Credentialing Board has jurisdiction in this proceeding pursuant to Wis. Stats. sec. 448.02.
2. The Wisconsin Occupational Therapist Affiliated Credentialing Board has the authority to resolve this proceeding by Stipulation without an evidentiary hearing pursuant to Wis. Stats. sec. 227.44(5).

3. Laura D. Hokanson's failure to properly perform a hot pack treatment that resulted in second degree burns to the Resident's left and right shoulders constitutes unprofessional conduct within the meaning of Wis. Stats. sec. 448.968(2) (g).

## ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the Stipulation of the parties is approved.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the certification of Laura D. Hokanson, O.T. to practice occupational therapy is hereby LIMITED with the following terms and conditions:

1. Ms. Hokanson shall participate in and successfully complete an educational course entitled "Physical Agent Modalities for Physical and Occupational Therapists" provided through Education Resources Inc. no later than six months after the effective date of this Order.

2. Ms. Hokanson shall not utilize physical agent modalities in the practice of occupational therapy until she has provided evidence to the Board, and the Board has accepted such evidence, of successful completion of the course set forth in paragraph one above.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Laura D. Hokanson, O.T., will appear before the Wisconsin Occupational Therapist Affiliated Credentialing Board, if an appearance is requested by the Board, at

the conclusion of the education program to establish that she has complied with all of the terms of this Final Decision and Order. In the event such appearance is required, Ms. Hokanson shall be notified in writing.

The rights of a party aggrieved by this Final Decision And Order to petition the Wisconsin Occupational Therapist Affiliated Credentialing Board for rehearing and to petition for judicial review are set forth in the attached "Notice of Appeal Information".

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2002.

STATE OF WISCONSIN

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST AFFILIATED CREDENTIALING BOARD

Judith Ficks

A Member of the Board