

# 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

JOANN A. PALMER, RN,

Respondent

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ORDER GRANTING THE STAY

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On January 30, 1998, 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 compliance with certain conditions and limitations on the license. Among these were that respondent participate in a recognized program for the treatment of chemical dependency, that she participate in psychotherapy a minimum of once each week, and that she participate in program of random witnessed monitoring for controlled substances and alcohol in her blood or urine on a frequency of not less than once each week.

By letter dated July 2, 1998, respondent requested that the frequency of required therapy and of required urine screens be reduced during the period of time in which she is not working due to the GM strike. The board considered the request at its meeting of July 9, 1998, and ordered that required drug screens and therapy sessions each be temporarily reduced to two per month.

On September 18, 1998, the board considered Ms. Palmer's request that urine screens and therapy sessions each be permanently reduced to one per month. By its Order dated September 28, 1998, the board denied the request, but permanently reduced the number of urine screens and therapy sessions to two per month.

On March 5, 1999, the board considered Ms. Palmer's request for a further three month stay of the suspension of her license. The board also considered evidence that she had relapsed for a period between February 17 and 21, 1998. The board denied the stay by its Order dated March 8, 1999.

By letter dated June 14, 1999, Ms. Palmer petitioned the board for reinstatement of the stay of suspension of her license. In support of her petition, Ms. Palmer included letters of reference from her supervisors and co-workers at her place of employment, and verification of her attendance at A.A. The board considered the petition at its meeting of July 9, 1999, and denied the stay by its Order dated July 23, 1999.

Ms. Palmer appeared before the board in support of her further petition for a stay of the suspension on September 17, 1999. The stay was granted by the board's Order dated September 23, 1999.

On May 19, the board considered Ms. Palmer's request for a further three month stay, and her further request that she be granted permission to have access to and to administer controlled substances in her employment

setting. The board granted the requests by its Order dated September 23, 2000.

By letter dated January 30, 2001, Ms. Palmer requested a further stay of the suspension of her license, and that the number of required therapy sessions be reduced to one per month. Ms. Palmer's therapist supported the latter request, and the board granted the requests by its Order dated March 8, 2001. Two further three-month extensions of the stay were granted, effective in June and September, 2001.

On December 6, 2001, the board granted Ms. Palmer's request for a further three month stay of the suspension.

On March 1, 2002, the board considered Ms. Palmer's request that all limitations on her license be terminated. The board denied reinstatement to full licensure, but granted a three month stay of the suspension.

On September 5, 2002, the board considered Ms. Palmer's renewal of her petition for termination of the limitations on her license or, in the alternative, a further three month stay of the suspension. The board continues of the opinion that it is too soon in Ms. Palmer's recovery to terminate all limitations on her license. And the board therefore orders as follows:

## **ORDER**

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the request of Joann A. Palmer, R.N., for termination of all limitations on her license is denied. The suspension of Ms. Palmer's license is hereby stayed for an additional period of three months.

Dated this 11<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2002.

STATE OF WISCONSIN

BOARD OF NURSING

Linda Sannner, RN,

Chairman