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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF
THE DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

HEIDI L. RIVER, R.N.

Respondent

ORDER DENYING EXTENSION

By its Order dated July 21, 1999, the Board of Nursing accepted the voluntary surrender of Ms. River's license to practice as a professional nurse in Wisconsin, following her failure to fully comply with the conditions of her participation in the Impaired Professional Procedure.

By letter dated December 18, 2000, Ms. River requested reinstatement of her license, and she appeared before the board on March 1, 2001, in support of her request. The board and Ms. River thereafter entered into a Stipulation, by which the Board of Nursing agreed to grant and Ms. River agreed to accept, a limited license to practice nursing in the State of Wisconsin. The term of the license was for three months, with provision for successive three month extensions of the license conditioned upon acceptable demonstration of compliance with certain terms and conditions during the prior three month period. Respondent is required to maintain successful participation in all components of a program for the treatment of chemical dependency at a treatment facility acceptable to the board, to obtain therapy at least four times per month, and to attend Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous or another self-help group acceptable to the board at least one time per week. Respondent is also required to participate in a program of random witnessed monitoring for controlled substances and alcohol in her urine, blood and/or hair on a frequency of four screens per month.

On October 4, 2001, the board considered Ms. River's request for a three month extension of her license. The board also considered her therapist's recommendations that the number of therapy sessions be reduced to three per month, and that one of respondent's four monthly drug screens be a breathalyzer test. The board granted the extension and reduced the number of required therapy sessions to three per month.

On January 3, 2002, the board granted a further three month extension of the license.

On April 4, 2002, the board denied Ms. River's request for a further three month extension of her license, based upon evidence of Ms. River's having relapsed to the use of alcohol on two occasions, most recently on March 18, 2002.

On July 11, 2002, the board considered Ms. River's petition for reinstatement of the license. Information provided to the board indicated that Ms. River had missed a number of screens since the date of the last order. Accordingly, the board orders as follows:

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the request of Heidi Lynn River for a further three month extension of her license is denied. Ms. River may apply for a reinstatement at such time as she is able to demonstrate full compliance with the board's Order during the preceding three month period.

Dated this 22nd day of July, 2002.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BOARD OF NURSING

Linda Sanner, RN
Chair