

# 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

RITA V. PITZER, R.N.

Respondent

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ORDER SUSPENDING THE LICENSE

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By its Final Decision and Order dated March 4, 1994, the Board of Nursing suspended Ms. Pitzer's license indefinitely. The board's Order provided for consecutive three month stays of the suspension conditioned upon applicant's compliance with limitations placed on her license, including full participation in a drug treatment program. Because applicant failed to so participate, the suspension went into effect, and her license has been suspended since that time.

On January 29, 1999, Ms. Pitzer appeared before the board in support of her petition to reinstate her license, and the board considered the request on that date. The board granted a three month stay and limited the license to require that she complete a nurse refresher course and to thereafter participate in a drug or alcohol treatment program.

On August 14, 2001, and again on November 1, 2001, the board granted Ms. Pitzer's requests for three month stays.

On February 1, 2002, the board granted Ms. Pitzer's request for a further three month stay, but denied her further request for a reduction in the number of required urine screens.

On May 2, 2002, the board considered Ms. Pitzer's request for a further three month stay, and the renewal of her request for a reduction in the number of required urine screens. The board again granted the stay but denied the request for a reduction in screens.

On August 9, 2002, the board granted Ms. Pitzer's request for a further three month stay of the suspension.

On November 7, 2002, the board considered Ms. Pitzer's request for a further three month stay. The board also considered evidence that at the time of the meeting all required quarterly reports had not been received, and Ms. Pitzer had not requested a further stay. Accordingly, the board granted a stay for one month.

On December 5, 2002, the board considered evidence that Ms. Pitzer was still not in compliance with the board's Order, and terminated the stay.

On March 7, 2003, the board considered Ms. Pitzer’s petition for reinstatement of the stay. Ms. Pitzer appeared before the board on that date in support of her petition, and explained the circumstances of her recent health problems. Ms. Pitzer indicated that she was currently in a residential treatment program, but she failed to provide any documentation from the program related to her treatment or her ability to safely and competently resume the practice of nursing. Also, while she has apparently undergone urine testing as a component of her treatment, she failed to provide any documentation in that regard. Consequently, the board denied the stay.

On June 6, 2003, the board granted Ms. Pitzer’s request for reinstatement of the stay, based upon new information received.

On September 5, 2003, the board considered evidence of a relapse by Ms. Pitzer, including arrests for DWI and for prescription forgery. Based upon that information, the board orders as follows:

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the stay of the suspension of the license of Rita V. Pitzer, RN, is terminated, and Ms. Pitzer’s license is hereby suspended.

Dated this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2003.

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BOARD OF NURSING

Linda M. Sanner, RN  
Chair