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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

KAREN J. SCHUMACHER, R.N.,

Respondent

ORDER GRANTING STAY

On January 7, 2000, 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 once per week.

On March 1, 2001, the board considered Ms. Schumacher's request for a further three month stay of the suspension, and her further request for a reduction in the number of required therapy sessions and urine screens. The board granted the stay, reduced therapy sessions to one every other month, and denied the requested reduction in urine screens.

On July 9, the board considered Ms. Schumacher's request for a further three month stay of the suspension of her license. Ms. Schumacher also renewed her requests that the therapy requirement be dropped and for a reduction in the number of required urine screens. The board granted the stay, eliminated the requirement that Ms. Schumacher participate in therapy, and granted the right to access to controlled substances in Ms. Schumacher's employment setting. The board denied the request for a reduction in the number of required urine screens.

On December 6, 2001, the board considered Ms. Schumacher's request for a further three month stay of the suspension, and her further request that the number of required urine screens be reduced to one per month. The board granted the stay, but denied the request for a reduction in the number of screens.

On March 1, 2002, the board granted Ms. Schumacher's request for a further three month stay of the suspension of her license, and the renewal of her request that the number of urine screens be reduced to one per month.

On September 5, 2002, the board considered Ms. Schumacher's request for a further stay, and her additional request that the number of required urine screens be further reduced to one every other month. Based upon the board's opinion that one screen per month is the minimum number for an effective screening program, the board granted the stay but denied the reduction in the minimum number of screens.

On December 5, 2002, the board considered Ms. Schumacher's request for a further three month stay. And renewal of her request for a reduction in the number of required urine screens to one every two months. The board repeated that it considers one screen per month to be a minimum number for an effective screening program, Accordingly, the stay was granted, but the request for a reduction in the number of required screens was denied.

On September 5, 2003, the board considered Ms. Schumacher's request for a further stay, and her usual request for a reduction in screens. The board's position has not changed from what it has always been, and the board therefore orders as follows:

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the suspension of the license of Karen J. Schumacher, R.N., to practice professional nursing in Wisconsin is hereby stayed for a period of three months. Ms. Schumacher may petition for further three month stays, and such petitions shall be granted upon submission of satisfactory evidence that Ms. Schumacher has fully complied with the board's January 7, 2000, Order during the preceding three month period.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the request for a reduction in the number of required urine screens is hereby denied.

Dated this 9th day of September, 2003.

STATE OF WISCONSIN

BOARD OF NURSING

Linda M. Sanner, R.N.,

Chair