

# 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  
THE DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

HEIDI L. RIVER, R.N.

Respondent

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ORDER GRANTING STAY

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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 Professionals 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 further three month extension of her license. The board also considered her therapist's recommendation 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 denied the stay.

On September 5, 2002, the board granted Ms. River’s renewal of her petition to reinstate the stay.

On December 5, 2002, the board considered Ms. River’s request for a further stay of the suspension. Ms. River’s therapist also recommended that the number of required screens be reduced from four to three per month, but Ms. Rivers did not make that request. Accordingly, the board merely granted the stay.

On March 7, 2003, the board considered Ms. Rivers’ request for a further three month stay of the suspension, and her further requests that the number of required urine screens be reduced to two per month and that the number of required therapy sessions be reduced to one or two per month. The board also considered evidence that Ms. Rivers has suffered a relapse. Accordingly, the board denied the stay.

On September 5, 2003, the board granted Ms. River’s petition for reinstatement of the stay.

On December 5, 2003, the board considered Ms. River’s request for a further stay, and her further requests for a reduction in the number of therapy sessions and in the number of required therapy sessions. In light of Ms. River’s recent relapse, the board considers any reduction at this time to be inappropriate. Accordingly, the board orders as follows:

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the suspension of the license of Heidi Lynn River is hereby stayed for a period of three months.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Ms. River’s request for reduction in the number of urine screens and therapy sessions is denied.

Dated this 10<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2003.

STATE OF WISCONSIN

BOARD OF NURSING

Linda M. Sanner, R.N.,

Chair