

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY	:	
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST	:	
	:	FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
STEPHEN L. SKELTON, R.N.,	:	LS0503011NUR
RESPONDENT.	:	

Division of Enforcement Case # 03 NUR 247

The parties to this action for the purposes of Wis. Stat. § 227.53 are:

Stephen L. Skelton, R.N.
1505 Mower Ct.
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

Division of Enforcement
Department of Regulation and Licensing
1400 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

Board of Nursing
Department of Regulation & Licensing
1400 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The parties in this matter agree to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final decision of this matter, subject to the approval of the Board of Nursing. The Board has reviewed the attached Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

Accordingly, the Board in this matter adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Stephen L. Skelton, R.N., (DOB 10/05/1952) is duly licensed as a registered nurse in the state of Wisconsin (license # 80279). This license was first granted on 09/08/1981.
2. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Board of Nursing is 1505 Mower Ct., Wauwatosa, WI, 53213.
3. At all times relevant to this action, Respondent was working as registered nurse in Wisconsin.
4. In or about 2002, and in several years prior, Respondent’s co-workers reported concerns that he was under the influence of alcohol while at work, and that he was not performing up to standards.
5. On or about November 4, 2002, Respondent entered into a contract with his employer in which he agreed

that his illegal use of drugs and/or abuse of alcohol, and the problems associated with that use and/or abuse, had impaired Respondent's ability to undertake his job-related responsibilities. Respondent agreed to participate in an alcohol abuse treatment program and to comply with discharge recommendations.

6. In or about April of 2003, Respondent was discharged from employment due to his inability to assume normal duties as a result of the use of alcohol.

7. Respondent has been diagnosed in the past with alcohol dependence syndrome - continuous, benzodiazepine dependence in remission, anxiety disorder not otherwise specified, and alcoholic liver disease.

8. More recently Respondent has been diagnosed with alcohol abuse, depression, alcoholic ascites, edema, seizure disorder and chronic alcohol hepatitis.

9. Respondent has recently been experiencing seizures and mini-strokes. He is medically incapable of practicing nursing at the present time.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Board of Nursing has jurisdiction to act in this matter, pursuant to Wis. Stat. §441.07(1)(c), and is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation and Order, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).

2. The conduct described in paragraphs 4 through 7 above constitutes a violation of Wisconsin Administrative Code § N 7.03(2) and Wis. Stat. § 441.07(1)(c).

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED, that the attached Stipulation is accepted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, effective the date of this Order:

SUSPENSION

The license of Stephen L. Skelton, R.N., to practice as a registered nurse in the State of Wisconsin is **INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED**.

PETITION FOR STAY OF SUSPENSION

Respondent may petition the Board for a stay of this suspension, however no such petition shall occur earlier than one year from the date of this Order. Any such petition shall be accompanied by written recommendations from Respondent's physician and from an alcohol abuse treatment counselor regarding Respondent's fitness to practice nursing. Further, Respondent must appear in person before the Board of Nursing to answer to the Board's satisfaction any questions they may have relating to his fitness to practice nursing. The decision of whether or not to stay the suspension is in the sole discretion of the Board of Nursing. If the Board stays the suspension, it may limit Respondent's license as it deems necessary to protect the public.

DEPARTMENT MONITOR

Any petition for a stay of the suspension, and/or any petition for a modification of the terms of this order, shall be mailed, e-mailed, faxed or delivered to:

Department Monitor, Division of Enforcement
Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing
1400 East Washington Ave.
P.O. Box 8935

Madison, WI 53708-8935
Fax: (608) 266-2264
Telephone: (608) 267-3817
department.monitor@drl.state.wi.us

COSTS OF PROCEEDING

Respondent shall pay COSTS of \$700 to the Department of Regulation and Licensing, within 90 days of the day of this order. In the event Respondent fails to timely submit any payment of costs, the Respondent's license (#80279) SHALL REMAIN SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with the terms of this Order.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin this 14th day of April, 2005.

Jacqueline A. Johnsrud, R.N.
Chairperson
Board of Nursing