

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY	:	
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST	:	
	:	FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
JOAN M. TYPPO-REICH, RN	:	LS05100610NUR
RESPONDENT	:	

(DOE CASE FILE 02 NUR 023)

The parties to this action for the purposes of Wis. Stats. sec. 227.53 are:

Joan Typpo-Reich RN
7607 Hughitt Ave.
Superior, WI 54880

State of Wisconsin
Board of Nursing
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8935

Department of Regulation and Licensing
Division of Enforcement
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8935

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

An informal complaint is pending before the Board of Nursing in this matter. By way of resolution of this case, the parties, Joan M. Typpo-Reich, RN, personally and by her attorney, Aaron R. Bransky, Brown, Andrew & Signorelli, P.A., and Pamela M. Stach, Attorney for the Department of Regulation and Licensing, Division of Enforcement, agreed to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final disposition of this matter, subject to the approval of the Board of Nursing. The Board has reviewed the Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Joan M. Typpo-Reich, RN, Respondent herein, d/o/b January 3, 1953, 7607 Hughitt Ave, Superior, Wi. 54480, is duly licensed by the Wisconsin Board of Nursing as a registered nurse in the state of Wisconsin under license number 63818 which was granted on September 19, 1975.

2. At all times relevant hereto, Respondent was employed as a public health nurse by the Douglas County Health Department.

3. As part of her duties as a public health nurse, Respondent was responsible for investigations involving communicable diseases, sexually transmitted diseases, assignments for immunization programs and the appropriate follow-up for each.

4. In December 2001, Respondent's supervisor reviewed a large number of records maintained in Respondent's office and noted that Respondent had, over the previous three months, failed to document any contact or follow up in many of the assigned cases.

5. Respondent admits that she failed to document contacts that she made in some cases and that she did not make the required contacts with the patients and/or their families or partners in others.

6. Various programs dealing with immunizations, sexually transmitted diseases and communicable diseases require the filing of specific information with the program administrators and patient and patient family contacts by letter.

7. Respondent admits that while she may have made verbal contacts in some cases, she did not always provide the contact by letter which was required.

8. Respondent was aware of, and instructed others in, the policies and procedures for assignments involving communicable disease investigations, sexually transmitted disease investigations, and immunization programs.

9. Respondent was able to provide verbal information regarding many of the cases assigned to her, but admits that she did not document contacts and other information she obtained as is required by the standards of nursing practice.

10. Except for the current case, Ms. Typpo-Reich has not been subjected to any disciplinary action from the Department.

11. Respondent was employed by the Douglas County Health Department for approximately 17 years before her termination in February, 2002, and, with the exception of this incident, had never been disciplined and had consistently received many favorable performance evaluations.

12. While there was potential for harm from Respondent's actions, there is no evidence that any patient suffered any actual harm.

13. At the time the incidents occurred, Respondent was subject to a number of unusual stressors, including an unusually high work load, serious and disabling health problems of two immediate family members, the need to move to living quarters to accommodate the health problems of those family members, and her need to find temporary quarters for her family. At the time, Respondent also was suffering from significant health problems that since have been treated. Respondent states that the violations which are the subject of this disciplinary action are isolated incidents in an otherwise long and unblemished nursing career, are attributable at least in part to unusual and significant outside stressors and work pressures, and are not indicative of her competence or work performance during her 30 years as a licensed nurse in Wisconsin. The Department has not received any information which would contradict Respondent's position.

14. Respondent is currently employed in a nursing capacity and her employer has praised as an exemplary employee and has given her supervisory responsibilities.

15. Respondent has cooperated fully throughout this investigation and voluntarily agrees to entry of this Order.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Board of Nursing has jurisdiction in this proceeding pursuant to Wis. Stat. sec. 441.07.
2. The Wisconsin Board of Nursing has the authority to resolve this matter by stipulation without an evidentiary hearing pursuant to Wis. Stats. sec. 227.44(5).
3. Respondent, by engaging in the conduct as set forth in the Findings of Fact above, has violated Wis. Stats. sec. 441.07 (1)(c) and Wis. Adm. Code sec. N 7.03(1).

ORDER

NOW THEREFORE IT IS ORDERED that the Stipulation of the parties is hereby accepted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Joan M. Typo-Reich RN is hereby REPRIMANDED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the nursing license of Joan M. Typo-Reich, RN shall be LIMITED on the following terms and conditions:

1. Within six months of the effective date of this Order, Joan Typo-Reich RN shall participate in and successfully complete six hours of continuing education in nursing charting and documentation and shall participate in and successfully complete the course, Ethics of Nursing Practice, provided by the National Council's Learning Extension, National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc.
2. Joan M. Typo-Reich, RN shall be responsible for locating the course/s required under this Order, for providing adequate course descriptions to the Department Monitor and for obtaining pre-approval of the course/s from the Wisconsin Board of Nursing, or its designee, prior to commencement of the programs.
3. Within 30 days after the course/s identified in paragraph one above are concluded, Joan Typo-Reich, RN shall file with the Wisconsin Board of Nursing certifications from the sponsoring organization of her attendance at the required course/s.
4. All costs of the educational programs shall be the responsibility of Joan Typo-Reich, RN.
5. Respondent shall pay costs in this matter in the amount of \$1500 payable to the Department of Regulation and Licensing within ninety days of the effective date of this Order.
6. Submission of all required documentation and payment of costs shall be mailed to:

Department Monitor
Division of Enforcement
Department of Regulation and Licensing
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935
Telephone (608) 267-3817
Fax (608) 266-2264

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT violation of any of the terms of this Order may be construed as conduct imperiling public health, safety and welfare and may result in a summary suspension of Respondent's license. The Board, in its discretion, may, in the alternative, impose additional conditions and limitations or other additional discipline for a violation of any of the terms of this Order. In the event Respondent fails to timely submit any payment of the costs as ordered, the Respondent's

license SHALL BE SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing,

until Respondent has complied with the terms of this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT this Order is effective upon signing.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin this 6th day of October, 2005.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BOARD OF NURSING

Jacqueline Johnsrud, RN
A Member of the Board