

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE HEARING AND SPEECH EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY :
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST : **FINAL DECISION AND ORDER**
 :
 :
 :
DEBBRA A. LORD, : LS0705071HAD
RESPONDENT. :

Division of Enforcement Case #04 HAD 12

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

Debbra A. Lord
P.O. Box 291
Holmen, WI 54636

Wisconsin Hearing and Speech Examining Board
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

Department of Regulation and Licensing
Division of Enforcement
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. The Board has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent Debbra Ann Lord (d.o.b. 9/17/63), is and was at all times relevant to the facts set forth herein a hearing instrument specialist licensed in the State of Wisconsin pursuant to license #1144, originally granted on 6/8/98.
2. On or about 7/2/04, the Department received a written complaint to the effect that Respondent may be impaired by the frequent excessive use of alcohol, appeared at a client’s house with the odor of an intoxicating beverage upon her breath, and had been twice convicted of operating a motor vehicle while influenced by an intoxicant, or operating a motor vehicle with a prohibited alcohol concentration.
3. In fact, Respondent was convicted of operating a motor vehicle while influenced by an intoxicant growing out of an incident on Saturday, 2/5/00, at about 7:20 PM, in which Respondent was observed by police to be swerving from side to side and when stopped was found to have a breath alcohol content of at least 0.2% by weight. Respondent was again arrested on Saturday, 4/24/04, at about 8:20 PM, when she was observed to pull out of a driveway dangerously close to a car approaching on the street, which was in fact a marked police car. She was found to have a blood alcohol content of at least 0.19% by weight; she was subsequently convicted of operating a motor vehicle with a prohibited alcohol concentration, in La Crosse County Circuit Court on 9/29/04.
4. On 8/5/04, the Department received a letter from Respondent which stated, in part:

In regard to the allegations, yes I have received 1 DWI 5 years ago when I was going through my divorce. I have not

been charged with any convictions on a second DWI.

5. In view of the fact that charges were pending, the Board finds that for Respondent to say that she had not been “charged” was a false statement to the Board, and constituted a deliberate attempt to mislead and obstruct the investigation.

6. Respondent has been diagnosed with alcohol dependence. The Board finds that persons with such diagnoses are at high risk of unprofessional conduct in the future, and that the Board’s public protection function requires that such persons engage in treatment for their dependence; the Board also has a legitimate interest in rehabilitating licensees and that in this case, rehabilitation requires the imposition of this Order.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

A. The Wisconsin Hearing and Speech Examining Board has jurisdiction to act in this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 459.10 and is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).

B. The conduct described in paragraph 4, above, violated Wis. Adm. Code § HAS 5.02(2)(b). Such conduct constitutes unprofessional conduct within the meaning of the Code and statutes

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that the attached Stipulation is accepted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that Debbra A. Lord is REPRIMANDED for her unprofessional conduct in this matter.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that Respondent shall not consume beverage alcohol, and shall comply in full with the treatment recommendations of La Crosse County Human Services, including its contracting agency, Gunderson Lutheran Behavioral Health. She shall release all records, upon request, to the Board and Department, and its designated employees.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that respondent shall pay COSTS in this matter in the amount of \$650, within 90 days 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

Dated this May 7, 2007.

WISCONSIN HEARING AND SPEECH EXAMINING BOARD, by:

Okie E. Allen

a member of the board