

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
DENNIS A. MENTCH, R.N., : LS0706215NUR
RESPONDENT :

06 NUR 425

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

Dennis A. Mentch, R.N.
443 Scott Ct.
Hartford, WI 53027

Wisconsin Board of Nursing
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 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. Dennis A. Mentch, R.N., was born August 18, 1963, and is duly licensed as a professional nurse in the State of Wisconsin license # 108063, which was originally granted on September 5, 1991.

2. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Department of Regulation & Licensing is 443 Scott Court, Hartford, Wisconsin, 53027.

3. Respondent was a professional nurse working as a triage nurse at the Waupun Memorial Hospital emergency room in Waupun, Wisconsin.

4. On October 18, 2006 Patient T.F. was brought to Waupun Memorial Hospital by his wife. When Patient T.F. was brought to the emergency room in a wheel chair, his arms were flaccid, his eyes were closed, and he appeared to be unconscious. Patient T.F. was minimally responsive when his name was yelled out loudly.

5. Respondent was informed of Patient T.F.'s condition, and that Patient T.F. had been brought to the Waupun Memorial Hospital emergency room specifically because of a possible medication overdose. Respondent told Patient T.F.'s wife that other patients were ahead of Patient T.F., and that the Waupun Memorial Hospital emergency room didn't have any available beds. In fact, at the time, the Waupun Memorial Hospital emergency room had two available beds. Respondent refused to evaluate Patient T.F. Respondent suggested that the family call an ambulance to transport Patient T.F. to the emergency room of another hospital if they wanted Patient T.F. to be evaluated.

6. A member of the family called 911 to request that an ambulance come to the hospital to transfer Patient T.F. to another hospital. The 911 dispatcher asked to speak with Respondent. After speaking to the 911 dispatcher, Respondent decided to assess Patient T.F. and Patient T.F. was admitted to the ER for evaluation.

7. Patient T.F. was stabilized and then transported via private ambulance to UW Hospital for treatment.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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

B. Respondent's failure to assess patient T.F. as described in paragraph 5, above, was unprofessional conduct contrary to Wis. Stats sec. 441.07(1)(d), Wis. Adm. Code secs. N 7.03(1)(b) and (c), and Wis. Adm. Code sec. N 7.04(4)

ORDER

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

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

1. Dennis A. Mentch, R.N. is REPRIMANDED.

2. Respondent's license is LIMITED by the condition that, for a period of at least one year, Respondent's employer shall provide quarterly work reports to the Board of Nursing. All reports shall be sent 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

3. Respondent shall, within six months from the date of this Order, successfully complete a minimum of six (6) hours of continuing education in the area of stress management. Respondent is responsible for all costs associated with this Order. Respondent shall obtain approval for all continuing education programs before he enrolls in any course intended for compliance with this Order. Requests for approval of continuing education courses, and certificates of completion of continuing education courses, shall be sent to

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

4. Respondent shall, within 180 days from the date of this Order, pay COSTS of this proceeding in the amount of SEVEN HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$700) dollars. Payment shall be made payable to the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing, and 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

5. After Respondent's employer has submitted four quarterly work reports to the Board, Respondent may petition the Board to lift the limitation from his license. The Board shall determine in its discretion whether Respondent has

submitted satisfactory evidence that the limitation no longer serves the public health, safety and welfare.

6. 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 forfeiture as set forth above, (or fails to pay costs as ordered or fails to comply with the ordered continuing education then Respondent's license (# 108063) SHALL BE SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with the terms of this Order.

7. This Order is effective on the date of its signing.

Wisconsin Board of Nursing

By: Marilyn Kaufmann
A Member of the Board

6/21/07
Date