

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
 BETH A. HILL, R.N., : LS0802283NUR
 RESPONDENT. :

[Division of Enforcement Case # 07 NUR 332]

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

Beth A. Hill, R.N.
1935 Sheridan Road
Kenosha, WI 53140

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

Wisconsin Board of Nursing
Department of Regulation and 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 this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Beth A. Hill, R.N., Respondent, date of birth December 4, 1961, is licensed by the Wisconsin Board of Nursing as a registered nurse in the state of Wisconsin pursuant to license number 156676, which was first granted March 21, 2007.
2. Respondent's address of record with the Department of Regulation and Licensing is 1935 Sheridan Road, Kenosha, WI 53140.
3. Respondent was employed as a registered nurse at Aurora Medical Center in Kenosha, Wisconsin.
4. Aurora administrators investigated several incidents that occurred in July 2007 involving the Pyxis system and seals being broken on several narcotic medication doses. Respondent was asked if she had any knowledge of the broken seals and on August 22, 2007, she admitted to diverting narcotics for approximately two months and diluting the syringes for her own use as a means of self-medicating. The medications included morphine, Demerol (meperidine) and Dilaudid (hydromorphone), all of which are narcotic analgesics and Schedule II controlled substances. Respondent was suspended from her employment pending completion of the investigation and was subsequently terminated based on theft of medication.
5. On August 24, 2007, as a result of her conduct, Respondent was charged in Kenosha County Wisconsin Circuit Court case number 2007CF000932 with two counts of felony possession of narcotic drugs, in violation of Wis. Stat. § 961.41(3g)(am) and misdemeanor theft, in violation of Wis. Stat. § 943.20(1)(a).

6. On October 5, 2007, Respondent pled guilty and was convicted of two counts of felony possession of narcotic drugs, in violation of Wis. Stat. § 961.41(3g)(am) and misdemeanor theft, in violation of Wis. Stat. § 943.20(1)(a). On December 10, 2007, sentence was withheld and Respondent was placed on three years probation with conditions which include, but are not limited to:

- a. Do not possess or consume alcoholic beverages and do not have alcoholic beverages within the residence.
- b. Do not be in taverns or on any premises licensed for the sale of intoxicating beverages, except restaurants or grocery stores.
- c. Do not possess or consume controlled substances, except by prescription.
- d. Submit voluntarily to random tests of blood, breath or urine.
- e. Participate in counseling deemed appropriate by agent.
- f. Surrender RN license to the nursing board.

7. Since August 2007, Respondent has been actively involved in the intensive outpatient program for substance abuse and addiction recovery at Rogers Memorial Hospital in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, and has moved on to aftercare and participation in 12-step recovery groups. Respondent is seeing a psychiatrist for medication related to her depression and a therapist to work on personal issues.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Board of Nursing has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 441.07 and has authority to enter into this stipulated resolution of this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).

2. Respondent, by obtaining a drug other than in the course of legitimate practice and as otherwise prohibited by law, as set out above, has committed misconduct and unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.04(2) and is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 441.07(1)(d).

3. Respondent, by engaging in the conduct set out above, abused drugs to the extent her ability to safely and reliably practice was impaired, as defined by Wis. Adm. Code § N 7.03(2), which subjects Respondent to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 441.07(1)(c).

4. Respondent, by violating laws which substantially relate to the practice of professional nursing, as set out above, has committed misconduct and unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.04(1) and is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 441.07(1)(d).

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. The Stipulation of the parties is approved.

2. The Board of Nursing accepts the surrender of Respondent's license to practice as a registered nurse in the State of Wisconsin. The Board also accepts the surrender of Respondent's privilege to practice in Wisconsin pursuant to the Multi-state Nurse Licensure Compact. Respondent's surrender of her privilege to practice in Wisconsin pursuant to the Multi-state Nurse Licensure Compact is permanent. Respondent may not reapply for Wisconsin licensure as a nurse unless and until she successfully completes the period of probation provided for in Kenosha County Wisconsin Circuit Court case number 2007CF000932.

3. In the event that Respondent re-applies for Wisconsin licensure as a nurse, the Board may enter an order denying such application unless Respondent provides evidence sufficient to convince the Board that she has been abstinent from drugs and alcohol for at least one year immediately preceding her application. Such evidence must include at least 56 random drug tests by an approved drug testing program. Respondent hereby expressly waives all rights to a hearing on any resulting application denial.

4. If the Board grants Respondent a nursing license at any time in the future, the terms and conditions of sections A

through D below will apply to her license:

SUSPENSION

- A.1. The license of Beth A. Hill, R.N., to practice as a nurse in the State of Wisconsin will be SUSPENDED for an indefinite period immediately upon issuance.
- A.2. During the pendency of this Order and any subsequent related orders, Respondent may not practice in another state pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact under the authority of the Wisconsin license, unless Respondent receives prior written authorization to do so from both the Wisconsin Board of Nursing and the regulatory board in the other state.
- A.3. Upon a showing by Respondent of continuous, successful compliance for a period of at least five (5) years with the terms of this Order, including at least 600 hours of active nursing for every year the suspension is stayed, the Board may grant a petition by the Respondent under paragraph D.4. for return of full Wisconsin licensure.
- A.4. The Board may, on its own motion or at the request of the Department Monitor, grant full Wisconsin licensure at any time.

STAY OF SUSPENSION

- B.1. The suspension of Respondent's Wisconsin nursing license shall be stayed upon Respondent petitioning the Board and providing proof, which is determined by the Board or its designee to be sufficient, that Respondent has been in compliance with the provisions of Sections C and D of this Order for the most recent three (3) consecutive months.
- B.2. The Board or its designee may, without hearing, remove the stay upon receipt of information that Respondent is in substantial or repeated violation of any provision of Sections C or D of this Order. Repeated violation is defined as the multiple violation of the same provision or violation of more than one provision. The Board may, in conjunction with any removal of any stay, prohibit the Respondent for a specified period of time from seeking a reinstatement of the stay under paragraph B.4.
- B.3. This suspension becomes reinstated immediately upon notice of the removal of the stay being provided to Respondent either by:
 - (a) Mailing to Respondent's last-known address provided to the Department of Regulation and Licensing pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.11; or
 - (b) Actual notice to Respondent or Respondent's attorney.
- B.4. The Board or its designee may reinstate the stay, if provided with sufficient information that Respondent is in compliance with the Order and that it is appropriate for the stay to be reinstated. Whether to reinstate the stay shall be wholly in the discretion of the Board or its designee.
- B.5. If Respondent requests a hearing on the removal of the stay, a hearing shall be held using the procedures set forth in Wis. Admin. Code ch. RL 2. The hearing shall be held in a timely manner with the evidentiary portion of the hearing being completed within 60 days of receipt of Respondent's request, unless waived by Respondent. Requesting a hearing does not stay the suspension during the pendency of the hearing process.

CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS

Treatment Required

- C.1. Respondent shall enter into, and shall continue, in a drug and alcohol treatment program at a treatment facility (Treater) acceptable to the Board or its designee. Respondent shall participate in, cooperate with, and follow all treatment recommended by Treater.
- C.2. Respondent shall immediately provide Treater with a copy of this Final Decision and Order and all other subsequent orders.
- C.3. Treater shall be responsible for coordinating Respondent's rehabilitation, drug monitoring and treatment program as required under the terms of this Order, and shall immediately report any relapse, violation of any of the terms and conditions of this Order, and any suspected unprofessional conduct, to the Department Monitor (See D.1., below). If Treater is unable or unwilling to serve as Treater, Respondent shall immediately seek approval of a successor Treater by the Board or its designee.

- C.4. The rehabilitation program shall include individual and/or group therapy sessions at a frequency to be determined by Treater, but not less than twice per month for the first year. Therapy may end only upon a determination by the Board or its designee after receiving a petition for modification as required by D.4., below.
- C.5. Treater shall submit formal written reports to the Department Monitor on a quarterly basis, as directed by the Department Monitor. These reports shall assess Respondent's progress in the drug and alcohol treatment program. Treater shall report immediately to the Department Monitor any violation or suspected violation of this Order.

Releases

- C.6. Respondent shall provide and keep on file with Treater, all treatment facilities and personnel, laboratories and collections sites current releases complying with state and federal laws. The releases shall allow the Board, its designee, and any employee of the Department of Regulation and Licensing, Division of Enforcement to: (a) obtain all urine, blood and hair specimen screen results and patient health care and treatment records and reports, and (b) discuss the progress of Respondent's treatment and rehabilitation. Copies of these releases shall immediately be filed with the Department Monitor.

AA/NA Meetings

- C.7. Respondent shall attend Narcotics Anonymous and/or Alcoholics Anonymous meetings or an equivalent program for recovering professionals, at the frequency recommended by Treater, but no less than twice per week. Attendance of Respondent at such meetings shall be verified and reported monthly to Treater and the Department Monitor.

Sobriety

- C.8. Respondent shall abstain from all personal use of alcohol.
- C.9. Respondent shall abstain from all personal use of controlled substances as defined in Wis. Stat. § 961.01(4), except when prescribed, dispensed or administered by a practitioner for a legitimate medical condition. Respondent shall disclose Respondent's drug and alcohol history and the existence and nature of this Order to the practitioner prior to the practitioner ordering the controlled substance. Respondent shall at the time the controlled substance is ordered immediately sign a release in compliance with state and federal laws authorizing the practitioner to discuss Respondent's treatment with, and provide copies of treatment records to, Treater and the Board or its designee.
- C.10. Respondent shall abstain from all use of over-the-counter medications or other substances which may mask consumption of controlled substances or of alcohol, create false positive screening results, or interfere with Respondent's treatment and rehabilitation.
- C.11. Respondent shall report all medications and drugs, over-the-counter or prescription, taken by Respondent to Treater and the Department Monitor within 24 hours of ingestion or administration, and shall identify the person or persons who prescribed, dispensed, administered or ordered said medications or drugs. If Respondent has not provided a release as required by C.9 above, within 24 hours of a request by Treater or the Board or its designee, Respondent shall provide releases in compliance with state and federal laws. The releases shall authorize the person who prescribed, dispensed, administered or ordered the medication to discuss Respondent's treatment with, and provide copies of treatment records to, the requester.

Drug and Alcohol Screens

- C.12. Respondent shall enroll and begin participation in a drug and alcohol monitoring program which is approved by the Department pursuant to Wis. Adm. Code § RL 7.11 ("Approved Program"). A list of Approved Programs is available from the Department Monitor.
- C.13. At the time Respondent enrolls in the Approved Program, Respondent shall review all of the rules and procedures made available by the Approved Program. Failure to comply with all requirements for participation in drug and alcohol monitoring established by the Approved Program is a substantial violation of this Order. The requirements shall include:
- (a.) Contact with the Approved Program as directed on a daily basis, including vacations, weekends and holidays.
 - (b.) Production of a urine specimen at a collection site designated by the Approved Program within five (5) hours of notification of a test.
- C.14. The Approved Program shall require the testing of urine specimens at a frequency of not less than 56 times per year, for the first year of this Order. After the first year, the frequency may be reduced only upon a determination by the

Board or its designee after receiving a petition for modification as required by D.4., below.

- C.15. If any urine, blood or hair specimen is positive or suspected positive for any controlled substances or alcohol, Respondent shall promptly submit to additional tests or examinations as the Treater or the Board or its designee shall determine to be appropriate to clarify or confirm the positive or suspected positive test results.
- C.16. In addition to any requirement of the Approved Program, the Board or its designee may require Respondent to do any or all of the following: (a) submit additional urine specimens, (b) submit blood, hair or breath specimens, (c) furnish any specimen in a directly witnessed manner.
- C.17. All confirmed positive test results shall be presumed to be valid. Respondent must prove by a preponderance of the evidence an error in collection, testing or other fault in the chain of custody.
- C.18. The Approved Program shall submit information and reports to the Department Monitor in compliance with the requirements of Wis. Adm. Code § RL 7.11.

Practice Limitations

- C.19. Respondent shall not work as a nurse or other health care provider in a setting in which Respondent has access to controlled substances.
- C.20. Respondent shall practice only under the direct supervision of a licensed nurse or other licensed health care professional approved by the Board or its designee and only in a work setting pre-approved by the Board or its designee. Respondent may not work in a home health care, hospice, pool nursing, or agency setting.
- C.21. Respondent shall provide a copy of this Final Decision and Order and all other subsequent orders immediately to supervisory personnel at all settings where Respondent works as a nurse or care giver or provides health care, currently or in the future.
- C.22. It is Respondent's responsibility to arrange for written reports from supervisors to be provided to the Department Monitor on a quarterly basis, as directed by the Department Monitor. These reports shall assess Respondent's work performance, and shall include the number of hours of active nursing practice worked during that quarter.
- C.23. Respondent shall report to the Board any change of employment status, residence, address or telephone number within five (5) days of the date of a change.

MISCELLANEOUS

Department Monitor

- D.1. Any requests, petitions, reports and other information required by this Order shall be mailed, e-mailed, faxed or delivered to:

Department Monitor
Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing
Division of Enforcement
1400 East Washington Ave.
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935
Fax: (608) 266-2264
Telephone: (608) 267-3817

Required Reporting by Respondent

- D.2. Respondent is responsible for compliance with all of the terms and conditions of this Order, including the timely submission of reports by others. Respondent shall promptly notify the Department Monitor of any failures of the Treater, treatment facility, Approved Program or collection sites to conform to the terms and conditions of this Order. Respondent shall promptly notify the Department Monitor of any violations of any of the terms and conditions of this Order by Respondent. Additionally, every three (3) months the Respondent shall notify the Department Monitor of the Respondent's compliance with the terms and conditions of the Order, and shall provide the Department Monitor with a current address and home telephone number.

Change of Treater or Approved Program by Board

- D.3. If the Board or its designee determines the Treater or Approved Program has performed inadequately or has failed to satisfy the terms and conditions of this Order, the Board or its designee may direct that Respondent continue treatment

and rehabilitation under the direction of another Treater or Approved Program.

Petitions for Modification of Limitations or Termination of Order

D.4. Respondent may petition the Board for modification of the terms of this Order or termination, however no such petition for modification shall occur earlier than one year from the date that the initial stay of the suspension goes into effect and no such petition for termination shall occur other than in compliance with paragraph A.3. Any such petition for modification shall be accompanied by a written recommendation from Respondent's Treater expressly supporting the specific modifications sought. Denial of a petition in whole or in part shall not be considered a denial of a license within the meaning of Wis. Stat. § 227.01(3)(a), and Respondent shall not have a right to any further hearings or proceedings on the denial.

Costs of Compliance

D.5. Respondent shall be responsible for all costs and expenses incurred in conjunction with the monitoring, screening, supervision and any other expenses associated with compliance with the terms of this Order. Being dropped from a program for non-payment is a violation of this Order.

Costs of Proceeding

D.6. Respondent shall pay costs of \$530.00 to the Department of Regulation and Licensing before any license is granted to Respondent pursuant to paragraph 4 above. In the event Respondent fails to timely submit any payment of costs, the Respondent's application for a license SHALL BE DENIED, without further notice or hearing.

Additional Discipline

D.7. In addition to any other action authorized by this Order or law, violation of any term of this Order may be the basis for a separate disciplinary action pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 441.07.

Wisconsin Board of Nursing

By: Marilyn Kaufmann
A Member of the Board

2/28/08
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY :
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST :
 :
 : STIPULATION
BETH A. HILL, R.N., : LS _____ NUR
RESPONDENT. :

[Division of Enforcement Case # 07 NUR 332]

It is hereby stipulated and agreed, by and between Beth A. Hill, R.N., Respondent; and Sandra L. Nowack, attorney for the Complainant, Department of Regulation and Licensing, Division of Enforcement, as follows:

1. This Stipulation is entered into as a result of a pending investigation of Respondent's licensure by the Division of Enforcement (file 07 NUR 332). Respondent consents to the resolution of this investigation by stipulation and without the issuance of a formal complaint.

2. Respondent understands that by signing this Stipulation, she voluntarily and knowingly waives her rights, including the right to a hearing on the allegations against her, at which time the state has the burden of proving those allegations by a preponderance of the evidence; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her; the right to call witnesses on her behalf and to compel their attendance by subpoena; the right to testify herself; the right to file objections to any proposed decision and to present briefs or oral arguments to the officials who are to render the final decision; the right to petition for rehearing; and all other applicable rights afforded to her under the United States Constitution, the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin Statutes, the Wisconsin Administrative Code, and any other provisions of state or federal law.

3. Respondent has been provided an opportunity to obtain advice of legal counsel prior to signing this Stipulation.

4. Respondent agrees to voluntarily surrender her license to practice as a registered nurse in the State of Wisconsin, as well as her privilege to practice nursing pursuant to the Multi-State Nurse Licensure Compact. Respondent agrees that she will not reapply for Wisconsin licensure as a nurse unless and until she successfully completes the period of probation provided for in Kenosha County Circuit Court Case No. 2007CF000932. Thereafter, Respondent may reapply for Wisconsin nursing licensure, but that application for licensure will not be approved unless Respondent provides evidence sufficient to convince the Board that she has been abstinent from drugs and alcohol for at least one year immediately preceding her application. Such evidence must include at least 56 random drug tests by an approved drug testing program. If the Board grants Respondent a nursing license, that license will be indefinitely suspended upon issuance, and the suspension will be stayed only if Respondent is compliant with drug treatment, counseling, practice limitations and drug testing as set out more fully in the attached Order. Respondent hereby expressly waives all rights to a hearing on any resulting application denial or license suspension or limitation.

5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Board, the parties shall not be bound by the contents of this Stipulation, and the matter shall be returned to the Division of Enforcement for further proceedings. In the event that this Stipulation is not accepted by the Board, the parties agree not to contend that the Board has been prejudiced or biased in any manner by the consideration of this attempted resolution.

6. Attached to this Stipulation are Respondent's current wall and wallet registration certificates. If the Board does not accept this Stipulation, Respondent's certificates shall be returned to Respondent with a notice of the Board's decision not to accept the Stipulation.

7. The parties to this Stipulation agree that the attorney or other agent for the Division of Enforcement and any member of the Board ever assigned as a case advisor in this investigation may appear before the Board in open or closed session, without the presence of the Respondent or her attorney, if any, for purposes of speaking in support of this agreement and answering questions that any member of the Board may have in connection with the Board's deliberations on the Stipulation. Additionally, any such case advisor may vote on whether the Board should accept this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.

8. Respondent is informed that should the Board adopt this Stipulation, the Board's Final Decision and Order is a public record and will be published in accordance with standard Department procedure.

9. Respondent is further informed that should the Board adopt this Stipulation, the Board's Final Decision and Order would constitute an agency finding within the meaning of Wis. Stats. §§ 48.685 and 50.065. Should Respondent wish to work in a Wisconsin DHFS-licensed facility, she will need to pass a Rehabilitation Review through DHFS prior to commencement of such employment.

10. The Division of Enforcement joins Respondent in recommending the Board adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.

Beth A. Hill, R.N.
Respondent
1935 Sheridan Road
Kenosha, WI 53140

Date

Sandra L. Nowack
Attorney for Complainant
Division of Enforcement
Department of Regulation and Licensing
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

Date