

# WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



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STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY	:	
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST	:	
	:	FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
MARLA L. MURRAY KOSS, R.N., A.P.N.P.,	:	Order <u>0000395</u>
RESPONDENT.	:	

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[Division of Enforcement Case # 07 NUR 337]

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

Marla L. Murray Koss, R.N., A.P.N.P.  
408 S. Washington Street  
Melrose, WI 54642

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

A disciplinary proceeding was commenced in this matter by the filing of a Notice of Hearing and Complaint with the Board of Nursing on April 16, 2010. Prior to the hearing on the Complaint, the parties in this matter agreed to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final disposition 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. Marla L. Murray Koss, R.N., A.P.N.P., Respondent, date of birth January 28, 1975, is licensed by the Wisconsin Board of Nursing as a registered nurse in the State of Wisconsin pursuant to license number 126817, which was first granted July 21, 1997.

2. Respondent is also licensed by the Wisconsin Board of Nursing as an advanced practice nurse prescriber in the State of Wisconsin pursuant to license number 2529, which was

first granted December 8, 2004. Respondent's license as an advanced practice nurse prescriber allows her to issue prescription orders, with certain limitations, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 441.16 and Wis. Admin. Code § N 8.06.

3. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Board of Nursing is 408 S. Washington Street, Melrose, WI 54642.

4. In 2007, Respondent was employed as a nurse practitioner at Tomah Memorial Hospital in Tomah, Wisconsin. On September 21, 2007, Respondent phoned in a prescription for hydrocodone/APAP 10/325mg, a schedule III controlled substance, to the Target Pharmacy in Onalaska for Patient A. The pharmacist was concerned that Respondent had been phoning in numerous prescriptions for this patient over the past year and told Respondent that she needed to provide them with a written prescription. Respondent then faxed them a prescription which had been written on a Tomah Memorial Hospital prescription pad.

5. Later that day, Respondent's teenage son came to the pharmacy to pick up the prescription for Patient A. The boy identified Patient A as his grandmother, and identified Respondent as his mother. The pharmacist determined that the cell phone number for the boy's mother was the same as the number the pharmacy had on file for Respondent. Respondent later called the pharmacy to say that her son was confused because hers and the nurse practitioner's first names were both 'Marla' and indicated that she practices under a different last name.

6. The pharmacist checked the Department of Regulation and Licensing website, and found no one with the last name Respondent claimed to practice under. She also discovered that Respondent's maiden name was the same as Patient A's last name, and that Respondent's first and maiden names matched the name of Patient A's daughter, who regularly picked up Patient A's medications. The pharmacist then checked the prescription sign-off logs, and found that the writing of Patient A's daughter appeared similar to Respondent's writing.

7. The next day, Respondent called in a prescription for someone with the same last name that Patient A's daughter claimed to practice under.

8. On September 24, 2007, the pharmacist notified Respondent's employer of the pharmacy's concerns regarding Respondent. The pharmacist believed that Respondent was picking up the prescriptions herself after phoning them in. The pharmacist provided Respondent's employer with the prescription number off of the prescription written for Patient A on September 21. The employer located the used pads to find the particular prescription and it was discovered that the word "VOID" had been written on the pad and no prescription was written on the copy. It was also determined that the prescription was written out to a patient that had never been to the hospital on the date written. The pharmacist asked the employer to describe Respondent, and the description matched Patient A's daughter.

9. The pharmacy checked its security tapes, and found three instances where Respondent could be seen picking up Patient A's medication.

10. On or about November 9, 2009, a Division of Enforcement investigator spoke to Respondent. Respondent admitted that she had obtained hydrocodone by writing prescriptions in her mother's name. She stated that her doctor had previously prescribed hydrocodone for her,

and that she had become addicted. She stated that she had been in treatment and counseling for her addiction.

#### 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 engaging in the conduct set out above, has obtained a drug other than in the course of legitimate practice and as otherwise prohibited by law, which is 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) and (e).

#### ORDER

IT IS ORDERED, that the attached Stipulation is accepted.

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

#### SUSPENSION

- A.1. The licenses of Marla L. Murray Koss, R.N., A.P.N.P., Respondent, to practice as a registered nurse and as an advanced practice nurse prescriber in the State of Wisconsin are SUSPENDED for an indefinite period.
- A.2. The privilege of Respondent to practice as a nurse in the State of Wisconsin under the authority of another state's license pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact is also SUSPENDED for an indefinite period.
- A.3. 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 a 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.4. Respondent shall mail or physically deliver all indicia of Wisconsin nursing licensure to the Department Monitor within 14 days of the effective date of this Order. Limited credentials can be printed from the Department of Regulation and Licensing website at <http://drl.wi.gov/index.htm>.
- A.5. 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 or nursing instruction for every year the suspension is stayed, the Board may grant a petition by the Respondent under paragraph D.6. for return of full Wisconsin licensure. 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 shall not be stayed for the first six (6) months, but any time after six (6) months the suspension shall be stayed upon Respondent 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, drug and alcohol treatment with a treater acceptable to the Board or its designee ("Treater"). 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 and treatment 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 required by this Order, 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. Therapy may end only with the approval of the Board or its designee, after receiving a petition for modification as required by D.5., 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 drug and alcohol treatment. 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 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 quarterly 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. Copies of these releases shall immediately be filed with the Department Monitor.
- 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 to Treater and the Department Monitor all medications and drugs, over-the-counter or prescription, taken by Respondent. Reports must be received within 24 hours of ingestion or administration of the medication or drug, and shall identify the person or persons who prescribed, dispensed, administered or ordered said medications or drugs. Each time the prescription is filled or refilled, Respondent shall immediately arrange for the prescriber or pharmacy to fax and mail copies of all prescriptions to the Department Monitor.

### 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 ("Approved Program").
- 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, blood, sweat, fingernail, hair, saliva or other 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 specimens at a frequency of not less than 49 times per year, for the first year of this Order. After the first year, Respondent may petition the Board on an annual basis for a modification of the frequency of tests. The board may adjust the frequency of testing on its own initiative at any time.
- C.15. If any urine, blood, sweat, fingernail, hair, saliva or other specimen is positive or suspected positive for any controlled substances or alcohol, Respondent shall promptly submit to additional tests or examinations as 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 specimens; (b) furnish any specimen in a directly witnessed manner; or (c) submit specimens on a more frequent basis.
- 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, fault in the chain of custody or other valid defense.
- C.18. The Approved Program shall submit information and reports to the Department Monitor as directed.

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.
- C.21. Respondent shall practice only in a work setting pre-approved by the Board or its designee.
- C.22. Respondent may not work in a home health care, hospice, pool nursing, or agency setting.
- C.23. 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.24. 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.25. 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 Avenue  
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.
- D.3. 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.4. 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.5. Respondent may petition the Board on an annual basis for modification of the terms of this Order, however no such petition for modification shall occur earlier than one year from the date of this Order. Any 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.
- D.6. Respondent may petition the Board for termination of this Order anytime after five years from the date of this Order. However, no petition for termination shall be considered without a showing of continuous, successful compliance with the terms of the Order, for at least five years.



Costs of Compliance

- D.7. 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.8. Respondent shall pay costs of \$800.00 to the Department of Regulation and Licensing, within 120 days of this Order. In the event Respondent fails to timely submit any payment of costs, Respondent's license may, in the discretion of the Board or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with payment of the costs.

Additional Discipline

- D.9. 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: Kate Ann  
A Member of the Board

9-2-10  
Date