

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF	:	
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST	:	
	:	FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
PAULA J. THOMAS, R.N.,	:	
RESPONDENT.	:	ORDER 0000 889

Division of Enforcement Case # 10 NUR 369
[template should allow for multiple case numbers]

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

Paula J. Thomas, R.N.
9322 W. Darnel Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53224

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

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. Paula J. Thomas, R.N., (DOB 10/15/1967) is licensed as a professional nurse in the State of Wisconsin (license # 30-109654). This license was first granted on March 20, 1992.

2. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Board of Nursing is 9322 Darnel Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53224.

3. On or about June 17, 2010, Respondent was working on an acute psychiatric unit. Her co-workers contend that she left her work assignment, without reporting to anyone else on her patients, for approximately 2 ½ hours. She states that she did report off on her patients and intended to return promptly, but fell asleep in her car after working a double shift at the insistence of her employer.

4. On or about July 2, 2010, Respondent's co-workers again reported that she left her work assignment, without permission, and without reporting to anyone else on her patients, for approximately two hours. Respondent states that she did inform a co-worker she was leaving, and contends she was gone for only 50 minutes.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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

2. The conduct described in paragraphs 3-4 above constitutes a violation of Wisconsin Administrative Code § N 7.03(1), and subjects Respondent to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 441.07(1)(c).

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED:

1. Paula J. Thomas, R.N. is REPRIMANDED.

2. The license of Paula J. Thomas, R.N., to practice nursing in the state of Wisconsin, and her privilege to practice in Wisconsin pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact, are LIMITED as follows:

- a. Respondent, at her own expense, shall complete three (3) hours of pre-approved continuing education in patient abandonment, within ninety (90) days of the date of this Order. Respondent is responsible for finding an appropriate course and submitting the course information to the Board for approval prior to taking the course and in sufficient time to obtain board approval within the 90 day time frame, taking into account the board's meeting schedule. Respondent shall provide proof of completion of the continuing education to the Department Monitor.
- b. Pursuant to Uniform Nurse Licensure Compact regulations, Respondent's nursing practice under her Wisconsin license is limited

to Wisconsin during the pendency of this limitation. This requirement may be waived only upon the prior written authorization of both the Wisconsin Board of Nursing and the regulatory board in the state in which Respondent proposes to practice.

- c. Respondent shall notify the Department Monitor of any change of nursing employment during the time in which the Order is in effect. Notification shall occur within fifteen (15) days of a change of employment and shall include an explanation of the reasons for the change.

3. Respondent shall, within ninety (90) days of the date of this Order, pay to the Department of Regulation and Licensing costs of this proceeding in the amount of Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00) pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.22(2).

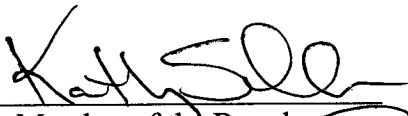

4. All petitions, payments, reports and other correspondence shall be mailed or delivered to:

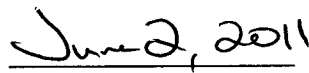
Department Monitor
Department of Regulation and Licensing
Division of Enforcement
1400 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935
Fax (608) 266-2264
Telephone (608) 267-3817

5. 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 that Respondent fails to pay costs as ordered, 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 the terms of this Order.

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

Wisconsin Board of Nursing

By: 
A Member of the Board 


Date