

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF	:	
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST	:	
	:	FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
LEONA M. RAPPA, L.P.N.,	:	
RESPONDENT.	:	ORDER 0001150

Division of Enforcement Case # 10 NUR 478, 11 NUR 233

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

Leona M. Rappa, L.P.N.
6319 E. State Hwy 50
Lake Geneva, WI 53147

Division of Enforcement
Department of Safety and Professional Services
1400 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

Board of Nursing
Department of Safety and Professional Services
1400 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On May 10, 2011, this matter was commenced by the filing and serving of a Notice of Hearing and a Complaint. A hearing has not been held. The parties have agreed 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 adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Leona M. Rappa, L.P.N., (DOB 04/15/1956) is licensed as a practical nurse in the State of Wisconsin (license # 31-31027). This license was first granted on November 22, 1991.

2. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Board of Nursing is 6319 E. State Hwy 50, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, 53147.

3. At all relevant times, Respondent worked as a nurse, on the night shift, at a nursing home.

4. On or about April 7, 2009, Respondent was counseled for leaving the med room door open.

5. On or about December of 2009, Respondent was disciplined by her employer for missing documentation.

6. On or about May 19, 2010, Respondent was counseled after her co-workers reported seeing her sleeping on the job, on several occasions.

7. On or about August 20, 2010, Respondent was again counseled regarding missing documentation, including notes, behavior charting, vital signs and symptoms and change assessments.

8. On or about October 5, 2010 Respondent made a resident wait two hours before receiving a requested PRN pain medication.

9. On or about October 8, 2010, Respondent made a resident wait approximately one hour before receiving a requested PRN pain medication.

10. On or about October 26, 2010, Respondent failed to notify the nursing home administrator of a patient fall. She did not complete a fall assessment, per policy and procedure.

11. On or about March 7, 2007, Respondent signed a contract to enroll in the Impaired Professional Procedure ("IPP").

12. Respondent signed a Statement of Facts, admitting that during January, 2006, she ingested cocaine, a Schedule II controlled substance, for recreational purposes and without a prescription or order of a physician.

13. In the five-year IPP contract, Respondent agreed, among other things, to abstain from alcohol, controlled substances, and prescription drugs not prescribed for valid medical purposes, and to enroll in drug treatment and submit to random, monitored drug screens. She also agreed to submit reports from herself, her employer and her therapist on a quarterly basis.

14. Respondent agreed, in her IPP contract, to submit a letter from her therapist indicating she was capable of safely and responsibly working as a registered nurse before returning to work. She was to obtain IPP approval before accepting any

professional nursing job, and to work only under supervision. She agreed that she would have no access to narcotics without IPP permission.

15. In a report dated July 2, 2009, Respondent's therapist stated she had made little progress in treatment, as she vacillated between a willingness to comply and outright defiance. He noted that she had not submitted to random testing as required by her contract, nor had she attended Narcotics Anonymous meetings, as required. In response to a question of whether she could safely practice nursing, he stated: "I would not be willing to stake my professional reputation on her employability by answering this question."

16. Due to staffing issues, Respondent's non-compliance was not discovered by the Impaired Professional Procedure until a routine audit of all program files in May of 2011.

17. The Impaired Professional Procedure, now known as the Professional Assistance Procedure, reported Respondent's non-compliance and referred her for discipline on May 16, 2011.

18. Respondent's contract contained the following language:

Ms. Rappa affirms her understanding that in the event she is terminated from the Wisconsin Impaired Professionals Procedure for any reason, this Statement of Facts may be an admission in a disciplinary action against her license. Ms. Rappa further agrees that the facts contained in this Statement shall be deemed a sufficient basis for subsequent disciplinary action under the requirements of sec. 441.07, Wis. Stats. and Wis. Adm. Code §§ N 7.03 and N 7.04 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

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 4-10 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).

3. Respondent's dismissal from IPP constitutes a violation of Wis. Admin. Code §§ N 7.03(2), N 7.04(1) and N 7.04(2), and subjects her to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 441.07(1)(c) and (d).

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED, that the attached Stipulation is accepted.

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

SUSPENSION

- A.1. The license of Leona M. Rappa, L.P.N., to practice as a nurse in the State of Wisconsin is SUSPENDED for an indefinite period.
- A.2. The privilege of Leona M. Rappa, L.P.N. 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 Professional Services website at <http://dsps.wi.gov>.
- 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 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 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 is in compliance with the provisions of Sections C and D of this Order.
- 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 Safety and Professional Services 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.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 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 Safety and Professional Services, 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 may work as a nurse or other health care provider in a setting in which Respondent has access to controlled substances. If Treater subsequently recommends restrictions on such access, the Board or its designee may impose such restrictions.
- C.20. Respondent shall practice only in a work setting pre-approved by the Board or its designee.
- C.21. Respondent may not work in a home health care, hospice, pool nursing, or agency setting.
- C.22. 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.23. 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.24. 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.

Education Requirement

- C.25. Respondent, at her own expense, shall complete three (3) hours of pre-approved continuing education in documentation and three (3) hours of pre-approved continuing education in nursing ethics, 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.

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 Safety and Professional Services
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.
- 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 \$600.00 to the Department of Safety and Professional Services, within one hundred twenty (120) days of this Order. In the event Respondent fails to timely submit any payment of costs, the Respondent's license (no. 31027-31) 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.

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.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin this 6 day of Oct, 11.

Board of Nursing

By: L. Mena
A Member of the Board