

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY :
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST : **FINAL DECISION AND ORDER**
:
MICHAEL D. BLASSINGAME, R.N. : **ORDER-0001179**
RESPONDENT. :

Division of Enforcement Cases #07 NUR 166 and 08 NUR 321

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

Michael D. Blassingame
609 N Weber St Apt C
Marshfield, WI 54449

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

A disciplinary proceeding was commenced in this matter by the filing of a Notice of Hearing and Complaint with the Board on December 3, 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. Michael Darren Blassingame (D.O.B. 5/9/1971) is duly licensed in the state of Wisconsin as a professional nurse (license # 149270). This license was first granted on 12/21/04. Respondent was also licensed in Georgia (his license having lapsed in 2003); his licenses in Pennsylvania and Michigan are suspended.
2. On 3/7/06, Respondent was disciplined by the Pennsylvania Board of Nursing as a result of having had several misdemeanor criminal convictions (including one OWI) between 1993 and 1997, which were not disclosed on his 2002 application for Pennsylvania licensure. The

Pennsylvania Board suspended Respondent's license for 5 years and imposed a \$1000 civil forfeiture. The Board did not learn of this discipline until the investigation of this matter.

3. On 1/5/07, Respondent was disciplined by the Michigan Board of Nursing, for failing to disclose his convictions when he applied for licensure in that state on 7/9/04, and for failing to notify the Michigan Board of Nursing of the Pennsylvania disciplinary action, as required by Michigan law. His license was suspended for 6 months and one day. The Board did not learn of this discipline until the investigation of this matter.

4. Respondent applied for Wisconsin licensure by endorsement on or about 11/18/04. In his application, he disclosed his criminal convictions.

5. On 4/22/07, and while practicing at Good Samaritan Health Center, Merrill, Wisconsin, through an agency, Respondent created a physician's order making it appear that a physician had ordered a laboratory test for a patient. In fact, the physician had not issued or authorized the order. Respondent represents to the Board that the test was ordered based on the clinical presentation exhibited by the patient, was ordered in good faith and believed to be by respondent to be in the best interests of the patient. Respondent represents to the Board that he believed that this practice was common in his prior practice as an intensive care nurse.

6. On 8/9/08 Respondent, while practicing as a floor nurse at Aurora Sinai Medical Center, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, through another agency, allowed a patient under his care to get out of his hospital bed while a groin sheath was attached. The patient suffered a possible pseudoaneurysm, and required surgery.

7. At the same facility, and during the week of 8/17-22/08, a patient under Respondent's care left the hospital with an IV still placed in his wrist. The patient returned to the emergency room a few days after he left in order to have the IV removed. Respondent represents to the Board that the patient left the facility against medical advice. Respondent did remove one IV from the patient, and represents to the Board that the patient concealed the other IV from Respondent.

8. On July 8, 2009, Respondent was arrested in Montgomery County, Texas, for operating a motor vehicle while influenced by an intoxicant, second offense, and was subsequently convicted of this offense upon his plea of guilty. Respondent complied with all requirements of his sentence and completed a one-year probationary period without incident. During the arrest, Respondent declined to cooperate with field sobriety testing, and then declined to provide a sample of blood for testing. A search warrant was ultimately obtained for Respondent's blood, and was found to contain 0.23 g. of alcohol per 100 mL of blood.

9. Without admitting any of the above conduct, Respondent desires to surrender his license because, for reasons relating to his health and the health of his family, he is permanently relocated to his home State of Georgia.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

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

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the surrender of the license of Michael D. Blassingame, R.N., Respondent, to practice nursing in Wisconsin, together with any privilege to practice nursing in Wisconsin under the Nurse Licensure Compact, is accepted. Respondent shall not practice nursing in Wisconsin, including under the Nurse Licensure Compact.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the costs in this matter, \$1,600, are waived, but if respondent ever applies or petitions for reinstatement, they shall be paid in full.

WISCONSIN BOARD OF NURSING

By: *Bretchen Lave*
A Member of the Board

November 3, 2011
Date

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