

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services Access to the Public Records of the Reports of Decisions

This Reports of Decisions document was retrieved from the Wisconsin Department of Department of Safety and Professional Services website. These records are open to public view under Wisconsin's Open Records law, sections 19.31-19.39 Wisconsin Statutes.

Please read this agreement prior to viewing the Decision:

- The Reports of Decisions is designed to contain copies of all orders issued by credentialing authorities within the Department of Safety and Professional Services from November, 1998 to the present. In addition, many but not all orders for the time period between 1977 and November, 1998 are posted. Not all orders issued by a credentialing authority constitute a formal disciplinary action.
- Reports of Decisions contains information as it exists at a specific point in time in the Department of Safety and Professional Services data base. Because this data base changes constantly, the Department is not responsible for subsequent entries that update, correct or delete data. The Department is not responsible for notifying prior requesters of updates, modifications, corrections or deletions. All users have the responsibility to determine whether information obtained from this site is still accurate, current and complete.
- There may be discrepancies between the online copies and the original document. Original documents should be consulted as the definitive representation of the order's content. Copies of original orders may be obtained by mailing requests to the Department of Safety and Professional Services, PO Box 8935, Madison, WI 53708-8935. The Department charges copying fees. *All requests must cite the case number, the date of the order, and respondent's name as it appears on the order.*
- Reported decisions may have an appeal pending, and discipline may be stayed during the appeal. Information about the current status of a credential issued by the Department of Safety and Professional Services is shown on the Department's Web Site under "License Lookup."
The status of an appeal may be found on court access websites at:
<http://ccap.courts.state.wi.us/InternetCourtAccess> and <http://www.courts.state.wi.us/wsccl>.
- Records not open to public inspection by statute are not contained on this website.

By viewing this document, you have read the above and agree to the use of the Reports of Decisions subject to the above terms, and that you understand the limitations of this on-line database.

Correcting information on the DSPS website: An individual who believes that information on the website is inaccurate may contact the webmaster at web@drl.state.wi.gov

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

DAWN L. CLIFTON, R.N.,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
:
:
:

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

ORDER 0002383

Division of Legal Services and Compliance¹ Case No. 12 NUR 264

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

Dawn L. Clifton, R.N.
8829 Woodridge Lane
Woodruff, WI 54568

Wisconsin Board of Nursing
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Department of Safety and Professional Services
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

The parties in this matter agree to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final disposition of this matter, subject to the approval of the Wisconsin Board of Nursing (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, Conclusions of Law and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent Dawn L. Clifton, R.N., (dob April 23, 1971) is licensed in the State of Wisconsin as a professional nurse, having license number 30-175303, first issued on November 2, 2010 and current through February 28, 2014. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is 8829 Woodridge Lane, Woodruff, Wisconsin 54568.

2. At all time relevant to this proceeding, Respondent worked as a nurse at Aspirus Wausau Hospital (Aspirus), located in Wausau, Wisconsin.

¹ The Division of Legal Services and Compliance was formerly known as the Division of Enforcement.

3. On May 30, 2012, while caring for Patient A, Respondent documented that two hydrocodone/APAP tablets were dispensed to Patient A each time the patient took medication, at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm.
4. Patient A reported to Aspirus staff that she only took one hydrocodone/APAP tablet at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm.
5. Aspirus investigated the matter and found that:
 - a. Other nurses caring for Patient A during the day consistently documented dispensing one hydrocodone/APAP tablet;
 - b. On many occasions, Respondent dispensed and documented administering hydrocodone/APAP to patients without documenting a pain assessment;
 - c. On at least one occasion, Respondent documented administering hydrocodone/APAP in less than the timeframe ordered by the physician; and
 - d. Between January 1, 2012 and May 31, 2012, Respondent administered a significantly higher amount of controlled substances than other nursing staff at Aspirus.
6. As a part of Aspirus's investigation, Respondent was requested to submit to a drug screen.
7. Respondent refused to submit to a drug screen and resigned.
8. In resolution of this matter, Respondent consents to the entry of the following Conclusions of Law and Order.

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 pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).
2. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Dawn L. Clifton, R.N., is impaired as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(2).
3. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Dawn L. Clifton, R.N., engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined in Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.04(2).
4. As a result of the above violations, Dawn L. Clifton, R.N., is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 441.07(1)(c) and (d).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. The SURRENDER of the license and privilege of Respondent Dawn L. Clifton, R.N., (license number 30-175303) to practice nursing in the State of Wisconsin or under another state license pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact is hereby accepted.

3. Respondent shall not petition the Board of Nursing for re-licensure for at least one (1) year from the date of this Order. After the one year period, Respondent may or may not be granted re-licensure, but may petition for re-licensure, under the following terms and conditions:

4. If Respondent believes that any denial of licensure or that any limitation imposed by the Board is inappropriate, Respondent may seek a class 1 hearing pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.01(3)(a) in which the burden shall be on Respondent to show that the Board's decision is arbitrary or capricious. The denial or limitations on Respondent's license shall remain in effect until there is a final decision in Respondent's favor on the issue.

- a. Respondent shall notify the Division of Legal Services and Compliance (Division) of the petition and the Division shall have the opportunity to apprise the Board of all allegations and information contained in the investigative file.
- b. Respondent shall meet all of the statutory and rule requirements for licensure in effect at the time of application.
- c. If the Board determines to grant Respondent's petition for re-licensure, Respondent's license shall be limited in a manner to address any concerns the Board has as a result of the conduct set out in the findings of fact, including, but not limited to:
 - 1) Psychotherapy, at Respondent's expense, by a therapist approved by the Board, to address specific treatment goals, with periodic reports to the Board by the therapist.
 - 2) Additional professional education in any identified areas of deficiency.
 - 3) Restrictions on the nature of practice or practice setting or requirements for supervision of practice, by a professional approved by the Board, with periodic reports to the Board by the supervisor.

5. In the event that Respondent petitions the Board of Nursing for re-licensure, Respondent shall pay to the Department of Safety and Professional Services the costs of this proceeding in the amount of \$1,250.00, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.22(2).

6. All notifications, petitions and costs (made payable to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services) shall be mailed, faxed or delivered by Respondent to the Department Monitor at the address below:

Department Monitor
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Department of Safety and Professional Services
P.O. Box 8935, Madison, WI 53708-8935
Telephone (608) 267-3817; Fax (608) 266-2264
DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov

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

WISCONSIN BOARD OF NURSING

By:

Julia Nelson, RN
A Member of the Board

Date

4/11/13