

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 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/wscca>

- 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 DSPS@wisconsin.gov

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

KAREN S. BRUINS, R.N.,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
:
:
:

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

0003541

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 14 NUR 112

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

Karen S. Bruins, R.N.
508 East Jackson Street
Ripon, WI 54971

Wisconsin Board of Nursing
P.O. Box 8366
Madison, WI 53708-8366

Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Department of Safety and Professional Services
P.O. Box 7190
Madison, WI 53707-7190

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 Karen S. Bruins, R.N., (dob July, 19, 1962) is licensed in the State of Wisconsin as a professional nurse, having license number 129304-30, first issued on April 21, 1998 and current through February 29, 2016. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is 508 East Jackson Street, Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54971.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a traveling professional nurse for a nursing agency (Agency), located in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Respondent treated patients in their homes in Oshkosh and Ripon, Wisconsin.

3. On November 18, 2013, Respondent documented that she performed a hospice nursing visit for Patient A between 1:30 p.m. and 2:25 p.m. She additionally documented that her physical assessment showed a sore to Patient A's right groin and that she applied ointment to the area. Respondent contacted Patient A's physician and reported the results of her assessment of the wound. In fact, Respondent had not assessed the wound and had not yet taken the patient's vital signs.

4. In or about December of 2013, a CNA had observed that Respondent documented on a visit note a patient's vital signs when, in fact, Respondent had not yet taken the vital signs.

5. On February 7, 2014, Respondent called the Agency at 8:38 a.m. and incorrectly reported that she was treating Patient B and had been at his residence since 7:45 a.m. The Agency then contacted staff at Patient B's residence. A CNA reported treating Patient B from 7:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m., and that Respondent was not present during that time.

6. Respondent documented on Patient B's visit note that she visited Patient B from 7:45 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

7. 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, Karen S. Bruins, R.N., engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined in Wis. Admin. Code. § N 7.04(6)¹, by falsifying or inappropriately altering patient records.

3. As a result of the above conduct, Karen S. Bruins, R.N., is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 441.07(1)(b) and (d).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. Respondent Karen S. Bruins, R.N., is REPRIMANDED.

3. The professional nursing license issued to Karen S. Bruins, R.N., (license number 129304-30) and her privilege to practice in Wisconsin pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact, are LIMITED as follows:

¹ All references to Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.04 refer to the code as it existed before August 1, 2014.

- a. Within ninety (90) days of the date of this Order, Respondent shall at her own expense, successfully complete five (5) hours of education on the topic of documentation and four (4) hours of education on the topic of ethics in nursing offered by a provider pre-approved by the Board's monitoring liaison, including taking and passing any exam offered for the courses.
- b. Respondent shall submit proof of successful completion of the education in the form of verification from the institution providing the education to the Department Monitor at the address stated below. None of the education completed pursuant to this requirement may be used to satisfy any continuing education requirements that have been or may be instituted by the Board or Department, and also may not be used in future attempts to upgrade a credential in Wisconsin.
- c. This limitation shall be removed from Respondent's license after satisfying the Board or its designee that Respondent has successfully completed all of the ordered education.

4. Within 180 days from the date of this Order, Karen S. Bruins, R.N., shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$200.00.

5. Request of approval of courses, proof of successful course completion and payment of costs (made payable to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services) shall be sent 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 7190, Madison, WI 53707-7190
Telephone (608) 267-3817; Fax (608) 266-2264
DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov

6. 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 Respondent fails to timely submit payment of the costs as ordered, fails to submit proof of successful completion of the ordered education or fails to submit work reports as set forth above, Respondent's license (no. 129304-30) may, in the discretion of the Board or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with payment of costs and submit proof of completion of the education.

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

WISCONSIN BOARD OF NURSING

by: Judy A. New DNP, APRN
A Member of the Board

11-13-14
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

KAREN S. BRUINS, R.N.,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
:
:
:
:

STIPULATION

0003541

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 14 NUR 112

Respondent Karen S. Bruins, R.N., and the Division of Legal Services and Compliance,
Department of Safety and Professional Services stipulate as follows:

1. This Stipulation is entered into as a result of a pending investigation by the
Division of Legal Services and Compliance. Respondent consents to the resolution of this
investigation by Stipulation.

2. Respondent understands that by signing this Stipulation, Respondent voluntarily
and knowingly waives the following rights:

- the right to a hearing on the allegations against Respondent, at which time the State has
the burden of proving those allegations by a preponderance of the evidence;
- the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against Respondent;
- the right to call witnesses on Respondent's behalf and to compel their attendance by
subpoena;
- the right to testify on Respondent's own behalf;
- the right to file objections to any proposed decision and to present briefs or oral
arguments to the officials who are to render the final decision;
- the right to petition for rehearing; and
- all other applicable rights afforded to Respondent under the United States Constitution,
the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin Statutes, the Wisconsin Administrative Code,
and other provisions of state or federal law.

3. Respondent is aware of Respondent's right to seek legal representation and has
been provided an opportunity to obtain legal counsel before signing this Stipulation.

4. Respondent agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by
the Wisconsin Board of Nursing (Board). The parties to the Stipulation consent to the entry of
the attached Final Decision and Order without further notice, pleading, appearance or consent of
the parties. Respondent waives all rights to any appeal of the Board's order, if adopted in the
form as attached.

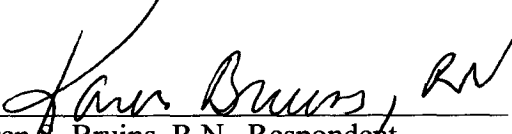
5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Board, the parties shall not
be bound by the contents of this Stipulation, and the matter shall then be returned to the Division

of Legal Services and Compliance for further proceedings. In the event that the Stipulation is not accepted by the Board, the parties agree not to contend that the Board has been prejudiced or biased in any manner by the consideration of this attempted resolution.


6. The parties to this Stipulation agree that the attorney or other agent for the Division of Legal Services and Compliance and any member of the Board ever assigned as an advisor in this investigation may appear before the Board in open or closed session, without the presence of Respondent, for purposes of speaking in support of this agreement and answering questions that any member of the Board may have in connection with deliberations on the Stipulation. Additionally, any such advisor may vote on whether the Board should accept this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.

7. Respondent is informed that should the Board adopt this Stipulation, the Board's Final Decision and Order is a public record and will be published in accordance with standard Department procedure.

8. The Division of Legal Services and Compliance joins Respondent in recommending the Board adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.


Karen S. Bruins, R.N., Respondent
508 East Jackson Street
Oshkosh, WI 54971
License no. 129304-30

10/3/14
Date


Kim M. Kluck, Attorney
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
P.O. Box 7190
Madison WI 53707-7190

10/17/14
Date