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

MICHELLE L. LIPPERT, R.N., RESPONDENT.

0003970

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 14 NUR 655

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

Michelle L. Lippert, R.N. W2369 Prairie Dr. Merrill, WI 54452

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 Michelle L. Lippert, R.N., (dob May 17, 1982) is licensed in the State of Wisconsin as a professional nurse, having license number 147599-30, first issued on July 29, 2004 and current through February 29, 2016. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is W2369 Prairie Drive, Merrill, Wisconsin 54452.
- 2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a professional nurse at a health care facility (Facility), located in Weston, Wisconsin.

- 3. Patient A had an order for restraints. The order also required that the restraints be checked every two hours.
- 4. On October 30, 2014, Respondent conducted a two-hour restraint check on Patient A.
- 5. Respondent was assisted by a CNA for the restraint check. The CNA held down Patient A's left arm so Respondent would not get hit.
- 6. Patient A stretched her neck and opened her mouth as if she was going to bite the CNA.
- 7. Respondent slapped Patient A across the face and stated to the CNA "this is between you and I, it was a reflex."
 - 8. The CNA reported the incident to the nursing supervisor.
 - 9. As a result, Respondent's employment was terminated.
- 10. On November 19, 2014, a Department investigator mailed a letter to Respondent with a request for a statement. Respondent failed to respond to the letter
- 11. On January 12, 2015, the investigator called Respondent to confirm receipt of the letter and to request that Respondent to come to the Department for an investigative interview and provide a response to the complaint. Respondent stated that she would not be able to come to the Department for an interview.
- 12. Respondent was subpoenaed to appear at the Department for an interview on February 12, 2015. Respondent failed to appear.
 - 13. Respondent has decided to surrender her license to practice nursing.
- 14. 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, Michelle L. Lippert, R.N., engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined in Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(1)(c), by, after request by the board, failing to cooperate in a timely manner, with the board's investigation of a complaint filed against a license holder.
- 3. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Michelle L. Lippert, R.N., engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined in Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(4)(c), by abusing a

patient by a single or repeated act of force, violence, harassment, deprivation, neglect, or mental pressure which reasonably could cause physical pain, injury, mental anguish or fear.

4. As a result of the above violations, Michelle L. Lippert, R.N., is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 441.07(1g)(b) and (d).

ORDER

- 1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.
- 2. The SURRENDER of the license and privilege of Michelle L. Lippert, R.N., (license no. 147599-30) to practice nursing in the State of Wisconsin or under another state license pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact is hereby accepted.
- 3. In the event that Respondent petitions the Board of Nursing for reinstatement as a nurse in the future, the Board may enter an order denying such application without further notice or hearing. Whether to grant a license and whether to impose any limitations or restrictions on any license granted shall be in the discretion of the Board.
- 4. Within 120 days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$325.00.
- 5. Payment of costs shall be made payable to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services and sent 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. This Order is effective on the date of its signing.

WISCONSIN BOARD OF NURSING

by: A Member of the Board Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

: STIPULATION

MICHELLE L. LIPPERT, R.N.,

RESPONDENT. : 0003970

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 14 NUR 655

Respondent Michelle L. Lippert, 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. Respondent is further informed that should the Board adopt this Stipulation, the Board's Final Decision and Order would constitute an agency finding within the meaning of Wis. Stat. §§ 48.685 and 50.065. Should Respondent wish to work in a Wisconsin DHS-licensed facility in any role, Respondent will need to pass a Rehabilitation Review through DHS prior to commencement of such employment.
- 9. The Division of Legal Services and Compliance joins Respondent in recommending the Board adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.

Michelle L. Lippert, R.N., Respondent

W2369 Prairie Dr. Merrill, WI 54452 License no. 147599-30

Amanda L. Florek, Attorney

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Department of Safety and Professional Services

P.O. Box 7190

Madison, WI 53707-7190