

## WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

SHERRI L. LARA, R.N.,  
RESPONDENT.

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FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

0004194

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 14 NUR 490

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

Sherri L. Lara, R.N.  
4376 Wren Ct.  
Windsor, WI 53598-9806

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 Sherri L. Lara, R.N., (dob September 8, 1976) is licensed in the State of Wisconsin as a professional nurse, having license number 153644-30, first issued on April 14, 2006 and current through February 29, 2016. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is 4376 Wren Court, Windsor, Wisconsin 53598-9806.

2. In February 2014, Respondent was participating in a recruitment process for employment at a hospital (Hospital A) in Madison, Wisconsin.

3. During the recruitment process, Hospital A asked Respondent to provide additional employment references. In doing so, Respondent submitted a reference form with her former supervisor's name and signature.

4. Unknown to Respondent, her former supervisor was currently employed at Hospital A.

5. The reference form Respondent submitted to Hospital A contained a forged signature and inaccurate phone number for her former supervisor.

6. On February 5, 2014, a phone call was made to Hospital A's human resources department to provide a reference for Respondent. The caller identified herself as Respondent's former supervisor.

7. Respondent's former supervisor became aware that her signature was forged and someone had called the Hospital A's human resources department pretending to be her and reported it to the police.

8. On September 28, 2014, Respondent sent a letter to the Department. The letter stated that she did not make the call to Hospital A, she did not identify herself as her former supervisor and she does not know of anyone impersonating her former supervisor.

9. The letter also stated that Respondent gave the reference form to a co-worker, who personally knew her former supervisor, to get her signature. Respondent stated that the form was returned to her with her former supervisor's signature and phone number and that she "would never knowingly be involved in falsifying a reference."

10. During the course of the Department's investigation the following was revealed:

- a. On February 5, 2014, Respondent sent an email from her work email address to the co-worker's work email that she gave the reference form to for signature by Respondent's former supervisor. The email provided detailed instructions for the phone call to be made to Hospital A by the co-worker.
- b. Records showed that on February 5, 2014, at 2:08 p.m., Respondent's co-worker contacted Respondent. At 2:42 p.m., Respondent's co-worker made a call to Hospital A. The phone call made by Respondent's co-worker was the reference call supposedly made by Respondent's former supervisor on Respondent's behalf.
- c. Phone records from U.S. Cellular® for the phone number listed on the reference form and the number from which the call was received was identified as belonging to the same co-worker Respondent gave the reference form to.

11. During an October 7, 2014 interview, Respondent denied any knowledge of who falsified her former supervisor's signature and who made the phone call to Hospital A pretending to be her former supervisor.

12. During a January 29, 2015 interview, Respondent admitted that she was aware that her co-worker committed the forgery on the reference form and that her co-worker also made the phone call to Hospital A pretending to be Respondent's former supervisor.

13. 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, Sherri L. Lara, R.N., engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined in Wis. Admin. Code. § N 7.04(13)<sup>1</sup>, by obtaining or attempting to obtain any compensation by fraud, misrepresentation, deceit or undue influence in the course of nursing practice.

3. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Sherri L. Lara, R.N., engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined in Wis. Admin. Code. § N 7.03(5)(g), by submitting false information in the course of an investigation.

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

#### ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. Respondent Sherri L. Lara, R.N., is REPRIMANDED.

3. The professional nursing license issued to Sherri L. Lara, R.N., (license number 153644-30) and her privilege to practice in Wisconsin pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact, are LIMITED as follows:

- a. Within ninety (90) days of the date of this Order, Respondent shall at her own expense, successfully complete four (4) hours of education on the topic of disciplinary actions, three (3) hours of education on the topic of ethics and professionalism in nursing, two (2) hours of education on the topic of nurse practice acts, and five (5) hours of education on professional accountability & legal liability for nurses offered by a provider pre-

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<sup>1</sup> All reference to Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.04 refer to the Code as it existed before August 1, 2014.

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.

4. The professional nursing license issued to Sherri L. Lara, R.N., (license number 153644-30) and her privilege to practice in Wisconsin pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact, is further LIMITED as follows:

- a. For a period of at least two (2) years, Respondent shall provide a copy of this Order to any current or future employers for which Respondent is engaged in any nursing practice.
- b. After two (2) years of working at least half-time as a nurse, Respondent may petition the Board for the modification or termination of the limitation. The Board may grant or deny the petition, in its discretion, or may modify this Order as it sees fit

5. Pursuant to Nurse Licensure Compact regulations, Respondent's nursing practice is limited to Wisconsin during the pendency of these limitations. This requirement may be waived only upon the prior written authorization of both the Wisconsin Board of Nursing and the regulatory board in the state in which Respondent proposes to practice.

6. Within 180 days from the date of this Order, Sherri L. Lara, R.N., shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$1,350.00.

7. 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](mailto:DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov)

8. 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 provide a copy of this Order to any current or future

nursing employer, fails to timely submit payment of the costs as ordered or fails to submit proof of successful completion of the ordered education as set forth above, Respondent's license (no. 153644-30) 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 has submit proof of successful completion of the ordered education.

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

WISCONSIN BOARD OF NURSING

by:  DNP, APRN  
A Member of the Board

8-13-15  
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

SHERRI L. LARA, R.N.,  
RESPONDENT.

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STIPULATION

0004194

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 14 NUR 490

Respondent Sherri L. Lara, 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. Respondent is represented by Attorney David A. Geier.

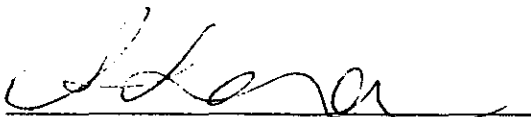
4. Respondent agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by the Wisconsin Board of Nursing (Board). The parties to the Stipulation consent to the entry of the attached Final Decision and Order without further notice, pleading, appearance or consent of the parties. Respondent waives 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 or Respondent's attorney, 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.



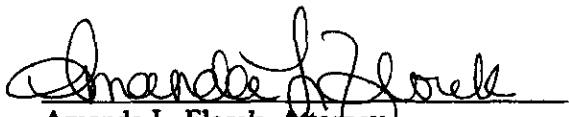
Sherri L. Lara, R.N., Respondent  
4376 Wren Ct.  
Windsor, WI 53598-9806  
License no. 153644-30

7/28/15  
Date



David A. Geier, Attorney for Respondent  
Geier, Hormar & Roy, LLP  
Loraine Business Center  
119 W. Washington Ave.  
Madison, WI 53703

7/28/15  
Date



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

7/30/15  
Date