

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 :
ELIZABETH A. WATTS, R.N., : FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
RESPONDENT. :

0004921

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 15 NUR 592

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

Elizabeth A. Watts, R.N.
6818 Fieldwood Rd.
Madison, WI 53718

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 Elizabeth A. Watts, R.N., (dob May 20, 1975) is licensed in the State of Wisconsin as a professional nurse, having license number 140625-30, first issued on February 7, 2002. Respondent's license expired on February 29, 2016 and has not been renewed. Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.08(3), Respondent retains the right to renew upon payment of a fee until February 28, 2021. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is 6818 Fieldwood Road, Madison, Wisconsin 53718.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a professional nurse at a hospital (Hospital), located in Madison, Wisconsin.

3. A Hospital investigation into Respondent's dispensing revealed several instances in which Respondent failed to document the waste or return of narcotic medication, including the following:

- a. On October 5, 2015, Respondent dispensed one (1) meperidine 50 mg syringe for Patient M.B. At 5:40 p.m., Respondent documented administering 25 mg, and did not document the waste or return of the remaining 25 mg.
- b. On October 8, 2015, Respondent dispensed one (1) meperidine 50 mg syringe for Patient J.W., at 11:02 a.m. Respondent documented administering 12.5 mg to Patient J.W. and at 11:11 a.m. documented administering another 12.5 mg to Patient J.W., but did not document the waste or return of the remaining 25 mg.
- c. On October 8, 2015, Respondent dispensed one (1) meperidine 50 mg syringe for Patient K.W. At 12:48 p.m., Respondent documented administering 25 mg to Patient K.W. and did not document the waste or return of the remaining 25 mg.

4. On October 22, 2015, during an interview with Hospital management, Respondent admitted to having poor nursing practices regarding waste/return and documentation. Respondent further admitted to wasting narcotic medication without a witness. Respondent believed that meperidine was not a narcotic that needed to be wasted with a witness.

5. On two prior occasions, Respondent had been instructed about the wasting procedures and the requirement of having a witness. Respondent signed documentation regarding wasting narcotic medications on both prior occasions.

6. During the interview with the Hospital management, Respondent stated that she had smoked marijuana three (3) weeks prior.

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. Pursuant to Wis. Stat. 961.16(3), meperidine is a schedule II controlled substance for which, under the circumstances at issue, a prescription is required, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 961.38(2).

3. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Elizabeth A. Watts, R.N., engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(6)(a), by failing to perform nursing with reasonable skill and safety.

5. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Elizabeth A. Watts, R.N., engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(8)(e), by obtaining, possessing or attempting to obtain or possess any drug without lawful authority.

6. As a result of the above conduct, Elizabeth A. Watts, 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 Elizabeth A. Watts, R.N., is REPRIMANDED.
3. The professional nursing license issued to Elizabeth A. Watts, R.N., (license number 140625-30) to practice nursing in the State of Wisconsin, and her privilege to practice in Wisconsin pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact, is LIMITED as follows:
 - a. For a period of at least two (2) years from the date of this Order:
 - i. Respondent shall enroll and participate in a drug monitoring program which is approved by the Department (Approved Program).
 - ii. At the time Respondent enrolls in the Approved Program, Respondent shall review all of the rules and procedures made available by the Approved Program. Failure to comply with all requirements for participation in drug monitoring established by the Approved Program is a substantial violation of this Order. The requirements shall include:
 1. Contact with the Approved Program as directed on a daily basis, including vacations, weekends and holidays.
 2. Production of a urine, blood, sweat, fingernail, hair, saliva or other specimen at a collection site designated by the Approved Program within five (5) hours of notification of a test.
 3. The Approved Program shall require the testing of specimens at a frequency of not less than forty-nine (49) times per year, for the first year of this Order.
 - iii. Respondent shall abstain from all personal use of controlled substances as defined in Wis. Stat. § 961.01(4), except when

prescribed, dispensed or administered by a practitioner for a legitimate medical condition. Respondent shall disclose Respondent's drug and alcohol history and the existence and nature of this Order to the practitioner prior to the practitioner ordering the controlled substance. Respondent shall at the time the controlled substance is ordered immediately sign a release in compliance with state and federal laws authorizing the practitioner to discuss Respondent's treatment with, and provide copies of treatment records to, the Board or its designee. Copies of these releases shall immediately be filed with the Department Monitor.

- iv. Respondent shall report to the Department Monitor all prescription medications and drugs taken by Respondent. Reports must be received within 24 hours of ingestion or administration of the medication or drug, and shall identify the person or persons who prescribed, dispensed, administered or ordered said medications or drugs. Each time the prescription is filled or refilled, Respondent shall immediately arrange for the prescriber or pharmacy to fax and mail copies of all prescriptions to the Department Monitor.
- v. Respondent shall provide the Department Monitor with a list of over-the-counter medications and drugs that they may take from time to time. Over-the-counter medications and drugs that mask the consumption of controlled substances, create false positive screening results, or interfere with Respondent's treatment and rehabilitation, shall not be taken unless ordered by a physician, in which case the drug must be reported as described in the paragraph 3(a)iv.
- vi. All positive test results are presumed valid and may result in automatic suspension of licensure by the Board or the Board's designee. Respondent must prove by a preponderance of the evidence an error in collection, testing, fault in the chain of custody or other valid defense.
- vii. If any urine, blood, sweat, fingernail, hair, saliva or other specimen is positive or suspected positive for any controlled substances, Respondent shall promptly submit to additional tests or examinations as the Board or its designee shall determine to be appropriate to clarify or confirm the positive or suspected positive test results.
- viii. Respondent shall practice only in a work setting pre-approved by the Board or its designee.
- ix. Respondent shall provide her nursing employer with a copy of this Order before engaging in any nursing employment. Respondent

shall provide the Department Monitor with written acknowledgment from each nursing employer that a copy of this Order has been received. Such acknowledgment shall be provided to the Department Monitor within fourteen (14) days of beginning new employment and/or within fourteen (14) days of the date of this Order for employment current as of the date of this Order.

4. The professional nursing license issued to Elizabeth A. Watts, R.N., (license number 140625-30) to practice nursing in the State of Wisconsin, and her privilege to practice in Wisconsin pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact, is further LIMITED as follows:

- 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 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.

5. Pursuant to Uniform 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. The Board or its designee may, without hearing, suspend Respondent's nursing license upon receipt of information that Respondent is in substantial or repeated violation of any provision of this Order. A substantial violation includes, but is not limited to, a positive drug screen. A repeated violation is defined as the multiple violations of the same provision or violation of more than one provision.

7. The Board or its designee may terminate the suspension if provided with sufficient information that Respondent is in compliance with the Order and that it is appropriate for the suspension to be terminated. Whether to terminate the suspension shall be wholly in the discretion of the Board or its designee.

8. After two (2) years from the date of this Order, Respondent may petition the Board for the modification or termination of any other limitations contained in this Order. The

Board may grant or deny the petition, in its discretion, or may modify this Order as it sees fit. After the first year, Respondent may petition the Board on an annual basis for a modification of the frequency of tests. The Board may adjust the frequency of testing on its own initiative at any time.

9. Within 120 days from the date of this Order, Elizabeth A. Watts, R.N., shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$1,300.00.

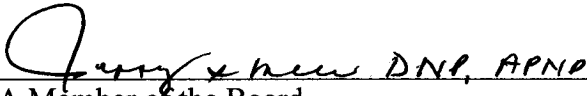
10. Request for approval of courses, proof of successful course completion and payment of costs (made payable to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services) shall be sent by Respondent to the Department Monitor at the address below:

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

11. 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 enroll in an approved drug monitoring program, fails to seek pre-approval of work settings, fails to show a copy of the order to employers, or fails to submit proof of successful completion of the ordered education as set forth above, Respondent's license (no. 140625-30) 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, enrolled in an approved drug monitoring program, complied with drug monitoring requirements, sought pre-approval of work settings, showed a copy of the order to any nursing employers and has submitted proof of successful completion of the ordered education.

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

WISCONSIN BOARD OF NURSING

by:  Jerry X. New DNP, APNP
A Member of the Board

9-8-16
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

ELIZABETH A. WATTS, R.N.,
RESPONDENT.

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:
:
:
:

STIPULATION

0004921

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 15 NUR 592

Respondent Elizabeth A. Watts, 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 Jessica Kramer.

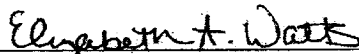
4. Respondent agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by the Wisconsin Board of Nursing (Board). The parties to the Stipulation consent to the entry of the attached Final Decision and Order without further notice, pleading, appearance or consent of the parties. Respondent waives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

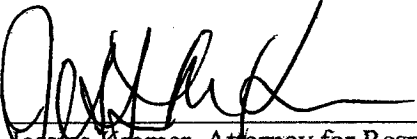
6. The parties to this Stipulation agree that the attorney or other agent for the Division of Legal Services and Compliance and any member of the Board ever assigned as an advisor in this investigation may appear before the Board in open or closed session, without the presence of Respondent, for purposes 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.


Elizabeth A. Watts, R.N., Respondent
6818 Fieldwood Rd.
Madison, WI 53718
License no. 140625-30

8-3-2016
Date


Jessica Kramer, Attorney for Respondent
Kramer, Elkins & Watt
17 Applegate Court, Suite 203
Madison, WI 53713

8/4/2016
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

8/5/16
Date