

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION FOR
RENEWAL OF REGISTERED NURSE
LICENSE

JULIE LEWIS,
APPLICANT.

:
:
:
:
:
:

ORDER GRANTING
LIMITED LICENSE

0004978

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

Julie Lewis
1606 Whispering Pines Way
Fitchburg, WI 53713-4332

Board of Nursing
1400 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. JULIE LEWIS (Applicant) has filed an application to renew her license (#81259-30) to practice as a Registered Nurse in Wisconsin. Applicant's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is 1606 Whispering Pines Way Fitchburg, WI 53713-4332.
2. Information received in the application process reflects that the Applicant has the following history of orders with the Wisconsin Board of Nursing (Board):
 - a. An order dated May 21, 1985. A true and correct copy of this order is attached.
 - i. On or about May 21, 1985, the Board of Nursing (Board) issued a final decision and order which found Applicant diverted controlled substances and used illicit drugs. The Board suspended Applicant's license for a period of not less than two (2) years, provided the opportunity to earn a stay of suspension, required treatment, sobriety, drug and alcohol screens, practice limitations and reporting, among other requirements.
 - ii. On or about December 30, 1986, Applicant's license was restored to full, unrestricted status.

- b. Case 92 NUR 082. A true and correct copy of this order is attached.
 - i. On or about October 30, 1992, the Board issued a final decision and order in case 92 NUR 082. The Board again found Applicant had diverted controlled substances for personal use. Applicant was also prosecuted for attempted theft in connection with this incident and was placed on probation in September of 1991. The Board found Applicant committed unprofessional conduct and was subject to discipline for violating any law substantially related to the practice of nursing, obtaining any drug other than in the course of legitimate practice, and violating any rule of the Board.
 - ii. The Board ordered an indefinite suspension of Applicant's license, gave Applicant the opportunity to earn a stay of suspension, required treatment, sobriety, drug and alcohol screens, refrain from accessing or administering controlled substances, practice limitations and reporting, among other requirements for a period of at least two (2) years.
 - iii. While under this order, case 93 NUR 167 was brought against Applicant.
- c. Case 93 NUR 167. A true and correct copy of this order is attached.
 - i. On or about September 10, 1993, the Board issued a final decision and order in case 93 NUR 167. The Board again found Applicant diverted controlled substances from patient supplies at Applicant's place of employment. Accessing controlled substances was a violation of the terms of the Board's 1992 order. The Board found Applicant committed unprofessional conduct and was subject to discipline for abuse of alcohol or other drugs to an extent that such use impaired Applicant's ability to safely or reliably practice nursing, violating any law substantially related to the practice of nursing, obtaining any drug other than in the course of legitimate practice, violating an order of the board, and violating any rule of the Board.
 - ii. The Board suspended Applicant's license for an indefinite period of time, gave Applicant the opportunity to earn a stay of suspension, required treatment, sobriety, drug and alcohol screens, cease access to or administration of controlled substances, practice limitations and reporting, among other requirements.
 - iii. Applicant did not earn a stay under the 1993 order and Applicant's license expired on February 28, 1994.
 - iv. On or about May 17, 1994, Applicant petitioned the Board for a stay of suspension, which the Board denied.

- v. On or about May 15, 2001, Applicant again petitioned the Board for a stay of suspension. The Board denied Applicant's request for a stay as the Board did not find Applicant's treatment program was an acceptable drug treatment program.
 - vi. On or about April 3, 2012, Applicant petitioned the Board for a stay of suspension which the Board again denied. However, the Board granted Applicant a limited license for the sole purpose of completing a nurse refresher course.
 - vii. On or about May 7, 2013, the Board again denied Applicant's request for a stay of the suspension of Applicant's license.
 - viii. On or about September 23, 2013, Applicant again petitioned the Board for a stay of the suspension of her license. The Board denied Applicant's request due to insufficient evidence of Applicant's ability to safely and competently return to active nursing practice. The Board requested Applicant undergo a fitness to practice assessment prior to considering any further requests.
 - ix. On or about June 17, 2015, the Department received a letter and course transcripts from the Applicant demonstrating she successfully completed the nurse refresher course during 2012-2013.
3. A review of Applicant application file also demonstrated Applicant has the following criminal convictions:
- a. On or about September 19, 1995 – two counts of Obtaining a Prescription Drug with Fraud, misdemeanor convictions.
 - b. On or about January 16, 1996 – Attempt to Attain Controlled Substances by Fraud, Second or Subsequent Drug Offense, a Felony conviction.
 - c. October 28, 1996 – Obtain Controlled Substances by Fraud, a Felony conviction.
 - d. December 7, 2005 – two counts of Retail Theft-Intentionally Take \leq \$2500, as a party to the crime, misdemeanor convictions.
 - e. November 28, 2006 – two counts of Retail Theft-Intentionally Take \leq \$2500, misdemeanor convictions.
 - f. November 28, 2006 – Bail Jumping, a misdemeanor conviction.
 - g. August 9, 2007 – Criminal Trespass to Dwelling, a misdemeanor conviction.
 - h. August 9, 2007 – Disorderly Conduct, a misdemeanor conviction.

- i. August 9, 2007 – Battery, a misdemeanor conviction.
4. On or about April 30, 2015, Applicant submitted an application to renew Applicant's license after the passage of more than five years.
5. Fitness to Practice Evaluation – May 18, 2016.
 - a. Pursuant to the Board's order dated September 23, 2013, Applicant worked with the Board's credentialing liaison to obtain Board approval for a psychiatrist to perform a fitness to practice evaluation.
 - b. Applicant submitted a fitness to practice evaluation report from psychiatrist Matthew A. Felgus, M.D., dated May 18, 2016. The evaluation found that Applicant has demonstrated the ability to maintain a recovery lifestyle since 2008, and concluded that Applicant is fit for practice under monitoring and with limitations.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Board has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 440.08(4), 441.06, and 441.07, and is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 15.08(5)(c) and 227.44(5).
2. The findings of fact underlying the Board's 1985 order demonstrate that the Applicant committed act(s) which showed Applicant to be unfit or incompetent by reason of abuse of drugs, Applicant engaged in misconduct or unprofessional conduct by violating a law substantially related to the practice of nursing, and obtained any drug other than in the course of legitimate practice, in violation of Wis. Stat. §§ 441.07(1)(c) and 441.07(1)(d), and Wis. Admin. Code §§ N 11.03(3)(a), N 11.03(3)(b), and N 11.04(1)(1980).
3. The findings of fact underlying the Board's 1992 order demonstrate that the Applicant violated law(s) substantially related to the practice of nursing, obtained any drug other than in the course of legitimate practice, and violated any rule of the Board in violation of Wis. Stat. § 441.07(1) (1987), and Wis. Admin. Code §§ N 7.04(1), N 7.04(2), and N 7.04(15) (1990).
4. The findings of fact underlying the Board's 1993 order demonstrate that the Applicant abused alcohol or other drugs to an extent that such use impaired Applicant's ability to safely or reliably practice nursing, violated law(s) substantially related to the practice of nursing, obtained any drug other than in the course of legitimate practice, violated an order of the board, and violated any rule of the Board in violation of Wis. Stat. § 441.07(1) (1990), and Wis. Admin. Code §§ N 7.03(2), N 7.04(1), N 7.04(2), N 7.04(14), and N 7.04(15) (1990).
5. Applicant has not completed the disciplinary requirements of the Board's 1993 order which is grounds for denying Applicant's application for renewal pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 441.07(1)(g)(d) and Wis. Admin. Code § N 2.41(2).

6. Applicant has an arrest or conviction record which relates substantially to the practice of nursing and is grounds for denying Applicant's application for renewal pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 441.07(1g)(d) and Wis. Admin Code § N 7.03(2).
7. Under the Board orders issued in 1985, 1992, and 1993, Applicant's license to practice nursing was subject to periods of suspension and limitations, and is grounds for denying Applicant's application pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 441.07(1g)(d) and Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(1)(b).
8. Based on all of the facts from Applicant's application, the Board has the right to deny the Applicant's application for renewal to protect the public health, safety, or welfare, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.08(4).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.
2. Applicant, JULIE LEWIS' application to renew her Registered Nurse license is GRANTED subject to the following LIMITATIONS:

SUSPENSION

- A.1. The license of Julie Lewis, R.N., (license number 81259-30) to practice as a professional nurse in the State of Wisconsin is SUSPENDED for an indefinite period.
- A.2. The privilege of Julie Lewis, R.N., to practice as a nurse in the State of Wisconsin under the authority of another state's license pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact is also SUSPENDED for an indefinite period.
- A.3. During the pendency of this Order and any subsequent related orders, Applicant may not practice in another state pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact under the authority of a Wisconsin license, unless Applicant receives prior written authorization to do so from both the Wisconsin Board of Nursing and the regulatory board in the other state.
- A.4. Upon a showing by Applicant of continuous, successful compliance for a period of at least five (5) years with the terms of this Order, including at least 600 hours of active nursing for every year the suspension is stayed, the Board may grant a petition by the Applicant under paragraph D.6. for return of full Wisconsin licensure. The Board may, on its own motion or at the request of the Department Monitor, grant full Wisconsin licensure at any time.

STAY OF SUSPENSION

- B.1. The suspension of Applicant's Wisconsin nursing license may be stayed upon Applicant petitioning the Board and providing proof, which is determined by the Board or its designee to be sufficient, that Applicant is in compliance with the provisions of Sections C and D of this Order.

- B.2. The Board or its designee may, without hearing, remove the stay upon receipt of information that Applicant is in substantial or repeated violation of any provision of Sections C or D of this Order. A substantial violation includes, but is not limited to, a positive drug or alcohol screen. A repeated violation is defined as the multiple violation of the same provision or violation of more than one provision. The Board or its designee may, in conjunction with any removal of any stay, prohibit the Applicant for a specified period of time from seeking a reinstatement of the stay under paragraph B.4.
- B.3. This suspension becomes reinstated immediately upon notice of the removal of the stay being provided to Applicant either by:
 - a. Mailing to Applicant's last-known address provided to the Department of Safety and Professional Services pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.11; or
 - b. Actual notice to Applicant or Applicant's attorney.
- B.4. The Board or its designee may reinstate the stay, if provided with sufficient information that Applicant is in compliance with the Order and that it is appropriate for the stay to be reinstated. Whether to reinstate the stay shall be wholly in the discretion of the Board or its designee.
- B.5. If Applicant requests a hearing on the removal of the stay, a hearing shall be held using the procedures set forth in Wis. Admin. Code ch. SPS 2. The hearing shall be held in a timely manner with the evidentiary portion of the hearing being completed within sixty (60) days of receipt of Applicant's request, unless waived by Applicant. Requesting a hearing does not stay the suspension during the pendency of the hearing process

CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS

Treatment Required

- C.1. Applicant shall enter into, and shall continue, drug and alcohol treatment with a Treater acceptable to the Board or its designee (Treater). Participation shall begin within 30 days of the date of this Order. Applicant shall participate in, cooperate with, and follow all treatment recommended by Treater.
- C.2. Applicant shall immediately provide Treater with a copy of this Final Decision and Order and all other subsequent orders.
- C.3. Treater shall be responsible for coordinating Applicant's rehabilitation and treatment as required under the term of this Order, and shall immediately report any relapse, violation of any of the terms and conditions of this Order, and any suspected unprofessional conduct, to the Department Monitor (see D.1. below). If Treater is unable or unwilling to serve as Treater, Applicant shall immediately seek approval of a successor Treater by the Board or its designee.

- C.4. The rehabilitation program shall include individual and/or group therapy sessions at a frequency to be determined by Treater. Therapy may end only with the approval of the Board or its designee, after receiving a petition for modification as required by D.5., below.
- C.5. Treater shall submit formal written reports to the Department Monitor on a quarterly basis, as directed by the Department Monitor. These reports shall assess Applicant's progress in the drug and alcohol treatment program. Treater shall report immediately to the Department Monitor any violation or suspected violation of this Order.

Releases

- C.6. Applicant shall provide and keep on file with Treater, all treatment facilities and personnel, laboratories and collections sites current releases complying with state and federal laws. The releases shall allow the Board, its designee, and any employee of the Department, Division of Legal Services and Compliance to:
 - a. obtain all specimen screen results and patient health care and treatment records and reports, and
 - b. discuss the progress of Applicant's treatment and rehabilitation with Treater, treatment facilities and personnel, laboratories and collection sites. Copies of these releases shall immediately be filed with the Department Monitor.

AA/NA Meetings

- C.7. Applicant shall attend Narcotics Anonymous and/or Alcoholics Anonymous meetings or an approved equivalent program for recovering professional, at the frequency recommended by Treater, but no less than twice per week. Attendance of Applicant at such meetings shall be verified by the speaker or chair and reported quarterly to Treater and the Department Monitor.

Sobriety

- C.8. Applicant shall abstain from all personal use of alcohol.
- C.9. Applicant 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. Applicant shall disclose Applicant's drug and alcohol history and the existence and nature of this Order to the practitioner prior to the practitioner ordering the controlled substance. Applicant 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 Applicant's treatment with, and provide copies of treatment records to, Treater and the Board or its designee. Copies of these releases shall immediately be filed with the Department Monitor.

- C.10. Applicant shall provide the Department Monitor with a list of over-the-counter medications and drugs that they may take from time to time. Applicant shall abstain from all use of over-the-counter medications or other substances (including but not limited to natural substances such as poppy seeds or any products containing alcohol) which may mask consumption of controlled substances or of alcohol, create false positive screening results, or interfere with Applicant's test results, treatment or rehabilitation, unless ordered by a physician and approved by Treater, in which case the drug must be reported as described in paragraph C.11. It is Applicant's responsibility to educate herself about the medications and substances which may violate this paragraph, and to avoid those medications and substances.
- C.11. Applicant shall report to Treater and the Department Monitor all prescription medications and drugs taken by Applicant. Reports must be received within twenty-four (24) hours of ingestion or administration, fill or refill 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, Applicant shall immediately arrange for the prescriber or pharmacy to fax and mail copies of all prescriptions to the Department Monitor.

Drug and Alcohol Screens

- C.12. Applicant shall enroll and begin participation in a drug and alcohol monitoring program which is approved by the Department Monitor (Approved Program). Participation shall begin no later than 30 days of the date of this Order.
- C.13. At the time Applicant enrolls in the Approved Program, Applicant shall review all of the rules and procedures made available by the Approved Program. Failure to comply with all requirements for participation in drug and alcohol monitoring established by the Approved Program is a substantial violation of this Order. The requirements shall include:
- a. Contact with the Approved Program as directed on a daily basis, including vacations, weekends and holidays.
 - b. 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.
- C.14. The Approved Program shall require the testing of specimens at a frequency of not less than forty-nine (49) urine screens per year, for at least the first year of this Order. Thereafter the board may adjust the frequency of testing on its own initiative at any time.
- C.15. If any urine, blood, sweat, fingernail, hair, saliva or other specimen is positive or suspected positive for any controlled substances or alcohol, Applicant 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.

- C.16. In addition to any requirement of the Approved Program, the Board or its designee may require Applicant to do any or all of the following:
- a. submit additional specimens;
 - b. furnish any specimen in a directly witnessed manner; or
 - c. submit specimens on a more frequent basis.
- C.17. All confirmed positive test results shall be presumed to be valid. Applicant must prove by a preponderance of the evidence an error in collection, testing, fault in the chain of custody or other valid defense.
- C.18. The Approved Program shall submit information and reports to the Department Monitor as directed.

Practice Limitations

- C.19. Applicant shall provide a copy of this Order, all previous Orders and any future Order to her employer's human resources department and direct supervisor at all settings where Applicant works as a registered nurse or care giver or provides health care, currently or in the future, during the duration of the limited license.
- C.20. It is Applicant's responsibility to arrange for quarterly written reports to be submitted to the Department Monitor from his or her supervisor at each setting in which Applicant practiced nursing in the previous quarter. These reports shall be submitted as directed by the Department Monitor, and shall assess Applicant's work performance, and shall include the number of hours of active nursing practice worked during that quarter. If a report indicates poor performance, the Board may institute appropriate corrective limitations, or may revoke a stay of the suspension, in its discretion.
- C.21. Applicant may not work in a home health care, hospice, pool nursing, assisted living, agency, or as a nurse in a correctional setting.
- C.22. Applicant shall practice only in a work setting pre-approved by the Board or its designee. Requests for preapproval must be accompanied by a current job description, name and contact information of the direct supervisor, and written acknowledgment from the employer that a copy of this Order has been received and that the restrictions will be accommodated
- C.23. Applicant shall **not** work as nurse or other health care provider in a setting in which Applicant has access to controlled substances.
- C.24. Pursuant to Nurse Licensure Compact regulations, Applicant's nursing practice is limited to Wisconsin during the pendency of this limitation. This requirement may be waived only upon the prior written authorization of both the Board and the regulatory board in the state in which Applicant proposes to practice.
- C.25. Applicant shall report to the Department Monitor any change of employment status, residence, address or telephone number within five (5) days of the date of a change.

MISCELLANEOUS

Department Monitor

- D.1. Any requests, petitions, reports and other information required by this Order shall be mailed, e-mailed, faxed or delivered to:

Department Monitor
Department of Safety and Professional Services
1400 E. Washington Ave.
P.O. Box 7190, Madison, WI 53707-7190
Telephone (608) 267-3817; Fax (608) 266-2264
DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov

Required Reporting by Applicant

- D.2. Applicant is responsible for compliance with all of the terms and conditions of this Order, including the timely submission of reports by others. Applicant shall promptly notify the Department Monitor of any failures of the Treater, treatment facility, Approved Program or collection sites to conform to the terms and conditions of this Order. Applicant shall promptly notify the Department Monitor of any violations of any of the terms and conditions of this Order by Applicant.
- D.3. Applicant shall submit self-reports to the Department Monitor on a quarterly basis, as directed by the Department Monitor. The reports shall include a summary of Applicant's compliance with the terms and conditions of the Order in the previous quarter, Applicant's current address and home telephone number. The self-report shall not be considered formal change of address notification pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.11.

Change of Treater or Approved Program by Board

- D.4. If the Board or its designee determines the Treater or Approved Program has performed inadequately or has failed to satisfy the terms and conditions of this Order, the Board or its designee may direct that Applicant continue treatment and rehabilitation under the direction of another Treater or Approved Program

Petitions for Modification of Limitations or Termination of Order

- D.5. Applicant may petition the Board on an annual basis for modification of the terms of this Order, but no petition for modification shall be considered sooner than one (1) year from the date of this Order. Any petition for modification shall be accompanied by a written recommendation from Applicant's Treater expressly supporting the specific modifications sought. Denial of a petition in whole or in part shall not be considered a denial of a license within the meaning of Wis. Stat. § 227.01(3)(a), and Applicant shall not have a right to any further hearings or proceedings on the denial.
- D.6. Applicant may petition the Board for full, unrestricted licensure upon demonstration of continuous, successful compliance with the terms of the Order for at least five (5) years, including at least 600 hours of active nursing practice each year.

Costs of Compliance

D.7. Applicant shall be responsible for all costs and expenses incurred in conjunction with the monitoring, screening, supervision and any other expenses associated with compliance with the terms of this Order. Being dropped from a program for non-payment is a violation of this Order.

Additional Discipline

D.8. In the event that Applicant violates any term of this Order, Applicant's license may, in the discretion of the Board or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Applicant has provided proof, which is determined by the Board or its designee to be sufficient, that Applicant is in compliance with the terms of the Order. The Board may, in addition and/or in the alternative, refer any violation of this Order to the Division of Legal Services and Compliance for further investigation and action.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin this 19 day of October, 2016

WISCONSIN BOARD OF NURSING

By:


A Member of the Board (Dw)

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION FOR :
RENEWAL OF REGISTERED NURSE :
LICENSE :

JULIE LEWIS,
APPLICANT. :


STIPULATION

0004978

It is hereby stipulated between the above-referenced Applicant and the State of Wisconsin Board of Nursing (Board) as follows:

The Applicant has filed an application for renewal of her Registered Nurse license. Information received by the Board reflects a basis for denial of the application for a renewal of the credential. Based upon the information of record, the Board agrees to issue and the Applicant agrees to accept a Limited License as a Registered Nurse subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the attached Order.

Dated this 10th day of October, 2016



Julie Lewis, Applicant

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BOARD OF NURSING

Dated this 19 day of October, 2016

By: 

Member of the Board