

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
SONJA D. EASLEY, R.N., :
RESPONDENT. : **0005545**

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 16 NUR 517

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

Sonja D. Easley, R.N.
4322 North 81st Street
Milwaukee, WI 53222

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 Sonja D. Easley, R.N., (DOB October 2, 1979) is licensed in the State of Wisconsin as a professional nurse, having license number 160520-30, first issued on September 13, 2007 and is currently inactive and expired. The license expired on February 28, 2014, 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 27, 2019.

2. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is 4322 North 81st Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53222. On information and belief, Respondent currently resides at 3611 Del Park Terrace, Louisville, Kentucky.

3. On January 8, 2016, the Kentucky Board of Nursing (Kentucky Board) sent Respondent a certified letter to her address in Kentucky notifying her that her Kentucky nursing license was immediately temporarily suspended for failure to respond to previous requests.

4. The Respondent did not sign for the letter or respond to the Kentucky Board.

5. On May 4, 2016, the Kentucky Board sent Respondent a certified letter to her address in Kentucky notifying her that she needed to address her suspension within ten (10) days or legal actions would take place.

6. The Respondent did not sign for the letter or respond to the Kentucky Board.

7. On May 16, 2016, the Kentucky Board sent Respondent a certified letter to her address in Kentucky notifying her that they were going to proceed with an investigation and schedule a hearing for violation of Kentucky nursing codes.

8. In May of 2016, Respondent started a thirteen (13) week nursing contract at a hospital in Kenosha, Wisconsin, via an agency staffing assignment.

9. Prior to the assignment, the staffing agency provided the hospital with documentation of current licensure from the State of Kentucky and Respondent practiced in Wisconsin at the hospital pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact.

10. Respondent indicated to the Department that she was not aware that her Kentucky license had been suspended and, therefore, did not inform the hospital or staffing agency that her Kentucky license was suspended while she worked as a professional nurse at the hospital.

11. On August 18, 2016, Respondent was terminated by her employer when they discovered her Kentucky nursing license was suspended.

12. On January 13, 2017, the Kentucky Board issued a Consent Decree imposing limitations on Respondent's Kentucky nursing license based on her practice of nursing in Wisconsin without an active or current license. The Consent Decree required Respondent to pay a civil penalty and complete 30 contact hours on substance abuse.

13. Respondent has completed the terms of the Kentucky Consent Decree.

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, Sonja D. Easley, R.N., violated Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(1)(b), by having a license to practice nursing or a nurse licensure

compact privilege to practice denied, revoked, suspended, limited, or having the credential holder otherwise disciplined in another state, territory, or country.

3. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Sonja D. Easley, R.N., violated Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(1)(d), by practicing without an active license.

4. As a result of the above conduct, Sonja D. Easley, 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 license of Sonja D. Easley, R.N., (license number 160520-30) to practice nursing in the State of Wisconsin, and her privilege to practice in Wisconsin pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact, are **SUSPENDED** for an indefinite period.

3. Anytime after three (3) months, the suspension may be stayed upon Respondent petitioning the Board and providing proof, which is determined by the Board or its designees to be sufficient, that the Respondent has completed the following:

- a. Respondent at her own expense, successfully complete two (2) hours of education on the topic of nurse practice acts 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.

4. Pursuant to Uniform Nurse Licensure Compact regulations, Respondent'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 Wisconsin Board of Nursing and the regulatory board in the state in which Respondent proposes to practice.

5. Within 120 days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$675.00.

6. 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

7. In the event Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's license (160520-30), or Respondent's right to renew her license, may, in the discretion of the Board or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied 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.

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

WISCONSIN BOARD OF NURSING

by: *Daryl Krause*
A Member of the Board

12-14-17
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

SONJA D. EASLEY, R.N.,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
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:
:

STIPULATION

00055 45

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 16 NUR 517

Respondent Sonja D. Easley, 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.

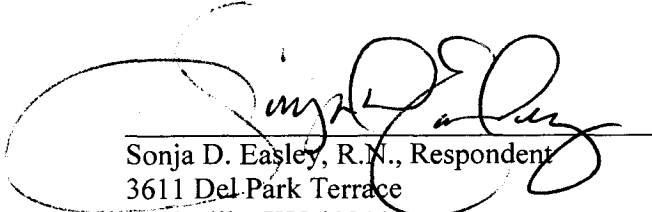
5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Board, the parties shall not be bound by the contents of this Stipulation, and the matter shall then be returned to the Division

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.



Sonja D. Easley, R.N., Respondent
3611 Del Park Terrace
Louisville, KY 40211
License no. 160520-30

11/18/17

Date



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

11/27/17

Date