

## 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

SONJA J. NOTTELSON, R.N.,  
RESPONDENT.

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FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

0005550

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 17 NUR 020

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

Sonja J. Nottelson, R.N.  
104 Lazy Lake Drive  
Fall River, WI 53932

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 J. Nottelson, R.N., (DOB February 28, 1955) is licensed in the State of Wisconsin as a professional nurse, having license number 159909-30, first issued on July 11, 2007 and current through February 28, 2018. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is 104 Lazy Lake Drive, Fall River, Wisconsin 53932.

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

3. On January 27, 2017, Respondent was on-call for an evening shift at the Hospital.
4. On January 27, 2017, at approximately 1600, Respondent ingested her prescribed 900 mg of gabapentin and drank a glass of wine.
5. On January 27, 2017, at approximately 1715, Respondent was called into work at the Hospital.
6. At 1845, Respondent arrived for her shift at the Hospital.
7. Co-workers observed that Respondent smelled of alcohol and was slurring her speech. Co-workers contacted the nurse manager regarding their concerns.
8. The nurse manager and behavioral services director met with Respondent. The nurse manager and the behavioral services director observed Respondent slurring her words, swaying as she walked and smelling of alcohol.
9. Respondent admitted to ingesting the gabapentin and consuming a large glass of wine prior to her shift.
10. Respondent agreed to a blood draw which revealed a blood alcohol concentration of 0.04 mg/dL.
11. On February 7, 2017, Respondent's employment was terminated from the Hospital.
12. Respondent neither admits to nor denies the facts above. However, 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 J. Nottelson, R.N., violated Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(6)(e), by practicing nursing while under the influence of alcohol, illicit drugs, or while impaired by the use of legitimately prescribed pharmacological agents or medications.
3. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Sonja J. Nottelson, R.N., violated Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(6)(f), by being unable to practice safely by reason of alcohol or other substance use.
4. As a result of the above conduct, Sonja J. Nottelson, 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 Sonja J. Nottelson, R.N., is REPRIMANDED.
3. The professional nursing license issued to Sonja J. Nottelson, R.N., (license number 159909-30) to practice nursing in the State of Wisconsin, and her privilege to practice in Wisconsin pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact, are LIMITED as follows:
  - a. Within sixty (60) days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall, at her own expense, undergo an AODA assessment with an evaluator pre-approved by the Board or its designee who has experience conducting these assessments.
  - b. Prior to the assessment, Respondent shall provide a copy of this Order to the evaluator. Respondent shall provide the Department Monitor with written acknowledgment from the evaluator that a copy of this Order has been received by the evaluator. Such acknowledgment shall be provided to the Department Monitor prior to the assessment.
  - c. Respondent shall provide and keep on file with the evaluator current releases complying with state and federal laws. The releases shall allow the Board, its designee, and any employee of the Department to obtain a copy of the assessment. Copies of these releases shall immediately be filed with the Department Monitor.
  - d. Respondent shall identify and provide the evaluator with authorizations to communicate with all physicians, mental health professionals, and facilities at which Respondent has been treated or evaluated.
  - e. The Board, or its designee, may impose additional limitations upon Respondent's license based on the results of the assessment and/or the evaluator's recommendations.
  - f. Respondent shall comply with the evaluator's recommendations.
4. The professional nursing license issued to Sonja J. Nottelson, R.N., (license number 159909-30) to practice nursing in the State of Wisconsin, and her privilege to practice in Wisconsin pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact, are further LIMITED as follows:
  - a. Within sixty (60) days of the date of this Order, Respondent shall at her own expense, successfully complete three (3) hours of education on the topic of critical thinking 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. Within 120 days from the date of this Order, Sonja J. Nottelson, R.N., shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$725.00.


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. In the event Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's license (no. 159909-30), 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.

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

WISCONSIN BOARD OF NURSING

by:   
A Member of the Board

12-14-17  
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

SONJA N. NOTTELSON, R.N.,  
RESPONDENT.

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STIPULATION

**0005550**

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 17 NUR 020

Respondent Sonja N. Nottelson, 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.

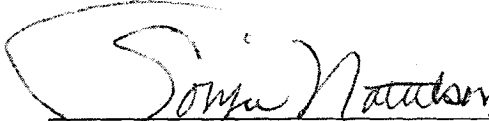
5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Board, the parties shall not  
be bound by the contents of this Stipulation, and the matter shall then be returned to the Division

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.

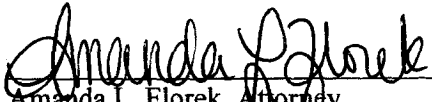
6. The parties to this Stipulation agree that the attorney or other agent for the Division of Legal Services and Compliance and any member of the Board ever assigned as an advisor in this investigation may appear before the Board in open or closed session, without the presence of Respondent, for purposes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

  
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Sonja N. Nottelson, Respondent  
104 Lazy Lake Drive  
Fall River, WI 53932  
License no. 159909-30

11/20/17  
Date

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

11/22/17  
Date