

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

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

ORDER GRANTING
LIMITED LICENSE

LINDSEY SEARS
APPLICANT.

0005688

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

LINDSEY SEARS
2409 HWY 2
TWO HARBORS MN 55610

BOARD OF NURSING
1400 EAST WASHINGTON AVENUE
P.O. BOX 8935
MADISON, WI 53708-8935

FINDINGS OF FACT

- I. Lindsey Sears (Applicant) has filed an application (# 627017) for a credential to practice as a Registered Nurse (RN) in Wisconsin via endorsement from Minnesota.
- II. Information received in the application process reflects that the Applicant was granted a license as an RN in Minnesota on or about September 4, 2007.
 - A. In a letter dated October 29, 2015, the Minnesota Board requested Applicant's written response to allegations regarding diversion of narcotics during her nursing practice. Applicant admitted she diverted three (3) doses of intravenous morphine, a 30mg PCA cartridge of morphine, and two (2) Norco tablets. Applicant disclosed she was under stress and had been suffering from migraines.
 - B. On or about December 3, 2015, the Minnesota Board of Nursing issued an order (2015 Consent Order), which indefinitely suspended Applicant's license to practice nursing in Minnesota. The 2015 Consent Order allowed Applicant the ability to petition for reinstatement of her license after twelve (12) months of continuous sobriety. A copy of the 2015 Consent Order is attached and incorporated by reference.
- III. Applicant applied for reinstatement of her Minnesota license in 2017. Applicant appeared before the Review Panel on July 12, 2017, to demonstrate her compliance with sobriety and the terms set out in the 2015 Consent Order.

- A. Applicant informed the Review Panel her sobriety date is August 17, 2015, that she successfully completed outpatient chemical dependency treatment on December 22, 2015, and that she successfully completed therapy in October 2016. The Review Panel determined the Applicant met the terms of the 2015 Consent Order.
- IV. On or about August 3, 2017, the Minnesota Board issued a new order (2017 Order), which rescinded the 2015 Consent Order, and reinstated Applicant's RN license.
 - A. The 2017 Order granting reinstatement suspended Applicant's Minnesota license, but the suspension is stayed so long as Applicant complies with the requirements of the order. The 2017 Order put numerous limitations and conditions on Applicant's license, including a prohibition from access to controlled substances, participation in the Minnesota Health Professionals Services Program (HSPS) for a minimum of 24 months, and abstention from mood-altering substances. A copy of the 2017 Minnesota Consent Order for Reinstatement is attached and incorporated by reference.
- V. On or about October 5, 2017, Applicant applied for a license to practice as an RN in North Dakota.
 - A. Due to Applicant's prior discipline in Minnesota, on or about January 18, 2018, the Board of Nursing of the State of North Dakota issued a limited RN license. Applicant's RN license is encumbered with certain terms and conditions for a period of twenty-four (24) months or upon successful completion of the Minnesota HPSP Participation Agreement. A copy of the North Dakota Stipulation for Settlement and Order are attached and incorporated by reference.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- I. The Board has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 441.06 and is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 15.08(5)(c) and 227.44(5).
- II. Applicant has engaged in unprofessional conduct by having a license to practice nursing revoked, suspended, limited, or having the credential holder otherwise disciplined. Applicant by her conduct is subject to action against her license pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 440.07(1g)(b) and (d), and Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(1)(b).

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that LINDSEY SEARS is GRANTED A SINGLE-STATE REGISTERED NURSE LICENSE subject to the following LIMITATIONS, TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS

Practice Limitations

- A.1. 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. Applicant shall provide the Department of Safety and Professional Services Monitor (Department Monitor) with written acknowledgement from each employer that a copy of this Order has been received. Such acknowledgement shall be provided to the Department Monitoring 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.
- A.2. It is Applicant's responsibility to arrange for written reports from her direct supervisor to be provided to the Department Monitor on a quarterly basis. These reports shall assess Applicant's work performance, attendance and include the number of hours of active nursing practice worked during that quarter.
- A.3. Applicant shall not work in a home health, group homes, hospice, assisted living facilities, pool nursing, correctional facility, through temporary placement agencies or agency setting.
- A.4. Applicant shall practice only in a work setting pre-approved by the Board or its designee, and only under the direct supervision of a licensed registered nurse or other licensed health care professional approved by the Board or its designee.
- A.5. Applicant may not work as a provider in a setting in which Applicant has access to controlled substances.
- A.6. 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.

Treatment Required

- A.7. Applicant shall enter into and continue, in an alcohol/drug addiction program with a Treater acceptable to the Board or its designee. 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.
- A.8. Applicant shall immediately provide Treater with a copy of this Final Decision and Order and all other subsequent orders.
- A.9. Treater shall be responsible for coordinating Applicant's rehabilitation, alcohol/drug monitoring and treatment program 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. 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.

- A.10. The rehabilitation program shall include individual and/or group therapy sessions at a frequency to be determined by Treater. Therapy may end only upon a determination by the Board or its designee after receiving a petition for modification including a recommendation for termination of treatment from the Treater as required by B.5., below.
- A.11. 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

- A.12. 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 Division to:

(a) obtain all urine, blood and hair specimen screen results and patient health care and treatment records and reports, and

(b) discuss the progress of Applicant's treatment and rehabilitation. Copies of these releases shall immediately be filed with the Department Monitor.

AA/NA Meetings

- A.13. Applicant shall attend Narcotics Anonymous and/or Alcoholics Anonymous meetings or an equivalent program for recovering professional, at the frequency recommended by Treater, but no less than twice per week. Attendance of Respondent at such meetings shall be verified and reported quarterly to Treater and the Department Monitor.

Sobriety

- A.14. Applicant shall abstain from all personal use of alcohol.
- A.15. 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.
- A.16. 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) which may mask consumption of controlled substances or of alcohol, create false positive screening results, or interfere with Applicant's rehabilitation. It is Applicant's responsibility to educate himself or herself about the medications and substances which may violate this paragraph, and to avoid those medications and substances.

- A.17. Applicant shall report to the Department Monitor all prescription medications and drugs taken by Applicant. 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, 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

- A.18. Applicant shall participate in a drug and alcohol monitoring program which is approved by the Department Monitor (Approved Program). Participation shall begin within 30 days of the date of this Order.
- A.19. 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.
- A.20. The Approved Program shall require the testing of specimens at a frequency of not less than 28 urine screens and one hair test per year. Applicant may petition the Board on an annual basis for a modification of the frequency of tests pursuant to provision B.5. below. The board may adjust the frequency of testing on its own initiative at any time.
- A.21. 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.
- A.22. 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 urine specimens,
 - (b) submit blood, hair or breath specimens,
 - (c) furnish any specimen in a directly witnessed manner.
- A.23. 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.

MISCELLANEOUS

Department Monitor

- B.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

- B.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.
- B.3. Applicant shall report to the Board any change of employment status, residence, address or telephone number within five days of the date of the change. Additionally, Applicant shall report any convictions or disciplinary action taken against any license within 48 hours of receipt of the judgment of conviction or final order. Every three months, Applicant shall notify the Department Monitor of Applicant's compliance with the terms and conditions of the Order, and shall provide the Department Monitor with a current address and home telephone number.

Change of Treater or Approved Program by Board

- B.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

- B.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. 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.
- B.6. Applicant may petition the board for full, unrestricted licensure at any time upon submission of proof satisfactory to the Board that Applicant has successfully completed all of the terms of her Minnesota order and Applicant's Minnesota license has been returned to full, unrestricted status. Applicant may also petition the Board for full, unrestricted licensure upon demonstration of continuous, successful compliance with the terms of the

Order for at least two (2) years, including at least 600 hours of active nursing practice each year. "Practice in compliance" includes the submission of work reports and treater reports, the content of which are satisfactory to the Board.

Costs of Compliance

- B.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.

Suspension

- B.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 10 day of April, 2018.

WISCONSIN BOARD OF NURSING

By:

Sherry Kraus (Dw)
A Member of the Board

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

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

LINDSEY SEARS
APPLICANT. :


STIPULATION

0005688

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

Dated this 10 day of April, 2018


Lindsey Sears, Applicant

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BOARD OF NURSING

Dated this 10 day of April, 2018

By: 
Member of the Board