

## WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY :  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST :  
: FINAL DECISION AND ORDER  
DEBRA J. ONSAGER, L.AC., :  
RESPONDENT. :

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0006148

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 18 RLA 001

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

Debra J. Onsager  
8254 West Southview Drive  
Franklin, WI 53132

Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services  
P.O. Box 8368  
Madison, WI 53708-8368

Division of Legal Services and Compliance  
Wisconsin 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 Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department). The Department has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

Accordingly, the Department adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent Debra J. Onsager, L.Ac., (DOB January 25, 1957) is certified in the state of Wisconsin to practice acupuncture, having certification number 359-55, first issued on August 13, 2003, and current through June 30, 2019. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Department is 8254 West Southview Drive, Franklin, Wisconsin 53132.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent worked as an acupuncturist at a clinic (Clinic), located in Franklin, Wisconsin.

3. On May 16, 2016, Patient A presented to Respondent with complaints of a sore back and Respondent treated Patient A with sixteen (16) acupuncture needles.

4. Patient A indicated comfort issues when Respondent returned to remove the acupuncture needles and when Respondent asked why she did not bring it to Respondent's attention, Patient A indicated she did not want to bother Respondent.

5. On the evening of May 16, 2016, Respondent missed a phone call from Patient A with a voicemail saying Patient A was unable to breathe. When Respondent called Patient A back, she was told by a firefighter that Patient A was being transported to the hospital. Patient A was diagnosed with pneumothorax.

6. Pneumothorax is an avoidable risk and closely associated with poor technique.

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 Department of Safety and Professional Services has jurisdiction to act in this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.88, 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, Debra J. Onsager, L.Ac., engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by Wis. Stat. § 451.14(2)(b), by engaging in conduct while practicing acupuncture which evidence a lack of knowledge or ability to apply professional principles or skills.

3. As a result of the violations noted in the Conclusions of Law, Respondent Debra J. Onsager, L.Ac., is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 451.14(2)(g).

#### ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. Respondent Debra J. Onsager, L.Ac., is REPRIMANDED.

3. The certificate to practice as an acupuncturist issued to Debra J. Onsager, L.Ac., (certificate no. 359-55) is LIMITED as follows:

- a. Within ninety (90) days of the date of this Order, Respondent shall successfully complete three (3) hours of education on the topic of acupuncture pneumothorax safety offered by a provider pre-approved by the Department's monitoring liaison, including taking and passing any exam offered for the courses.

- b. Respondent shall submit proof of successful completion of the ordered education in the form of verification from the institution providing the education to the Department Monitor at the address stated below.
- c. 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 Department, and also may not be used in future attempts to upgrade a credential in Wisconsin.
- d. This limitation shall be removed from Respondent's certificate after satisfying the Department that Respondent has successfully completed all of the ordered education.

4. Within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, Debra J. Onsager, L.Ac., shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$ 466.00.

5. 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](mailto:DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov)

You may also submit this information online via DSPS' Monitoring Case Management System, here:

<https://app.wi.gov/DSPSMonitoring>

6. In the event that Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's certificate (no. 359-55) to practice acupuncture in the state of Wisconsin may, in the discretion of the Department or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with the terms of the Order. The Department 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 DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

By: Aloysius Rohmeyer  
Aloysius Rohmeyer, Chief Counsel  
On Behalf of the Department

4-26-19  
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY :  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST :  
: STIPULATION  
DEBRA J. ONSAGER, L.AC., :  
RESPONDENT. :

0006148

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 18 RLA 001

Respondent Debra J. Onsager, L.Ac., 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 Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department). 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 Department's Order, if adopted in the form as attached.

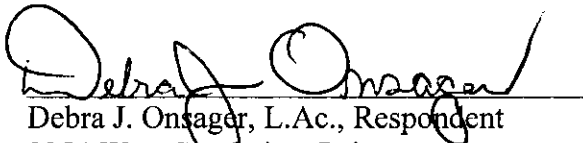
5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Department, the parties shall not be bound by the contents of this Stipulation, and the matter shall then be returned to the

Division of Legal Services and Compliance for further proceedings. In the event that the Stipulation is not accepted by the Department, the parties agree not to contend that the Department 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 may appear before the Department, without the presence of Respondent, for purposes of speaking in support of this agreement and answering questions that the Department may have in connection with deliberations on the Stipulation.

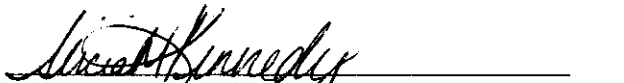
7. Respondent is informed that should the Department adopt this Stipulation, the Department's Final Decision and Order is a public record and will be published in accordance with standard Department procedure.

8. The Division of Legal Services and Compliance joins Respondent in recommending that the Department adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.



Debra J. Onsager, L.Ac., Respondent  
8254 West Southview Drive  
Franklin, WI 53132  
Certificate no. 359-55

4-11-2019  
Date



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

4/15/2019  
Date