

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
MARIA J. PUENTE, R.N., :
RESPONDENT. : 16234

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 18 NUR 421

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

Maria J. Puente, R.N.
9605 74th Street
Kenosha, WI 53142

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. Maria J. Puente, R.N. (Respondent), (DOB December 25, 1968) is licensed in the state of Wisconsin as a registered nurse, having license number 231563-30, first issued on October 5, 2016, and current through February 28, 2020.¹ Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is 9605 74th Street, Kenosha, Wisconsin 53142.

¹ Respondent is licensed in the state of Wisconsin to practice as a practical nurse, having license number 305708-31, first granted on January 27, 2005. This license expired on April 30, 2017 and has not been renewed. Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.08(3), Respondent retains the right to renew upon payment of a fee until April 30, 2022.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a nurse at a rehabilitation center (Center), located in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

3. On March 8, 2017, certified nursing assistant (CNA) B was taking care of Resident A when she noticed Resident A was lying on a pad that appeared to be full of blood.

4. Respondent was standing in front of Resident A's room with the medication cart when CNA B asked Respondent for assistance.

5. Respondent informed CNA B that she was unable to assist because she could not leave the medications out; CNA B did not see any medications out.

6. CNA B informed Nurse C and Nurse D about her concerns regarding Resident A and they immediately followed her to Resident A's room.

7. Respondent entered Resident A's room and stated that Resident A was lying in urine and stool.

8. Respondent indicated that she did not assess Resident A immediately because she was waiting for CNA B to inform her what was wrong, and she assumed this was not an emergency as she could hear Resident A speaking. Respondent stated she immediately attended to Resident A after locking her medication up.

9. In resolution of this matter, Respondent consents to the entry of the following Conclusions of Law and Order.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Board 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, Respondent violated Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(6)(a), by failing to perform nursing with reasonable skill and safety.

3. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent violated Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(6)(b), by engaging in unsafe practice including lack of knowledge, skill, or ability to discharge professional obligations within the scope of nursing practice.

4. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent violated Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(6)(c), by departing from or failing to conform to the minimal standards of acceptable nursing practice that may create unnecessary risk or danger to a patient's life, health, or safety.

5. As a result of the above conduct, Respondent is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 441.07(1g)(b) and (d).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.
2. Respondent is REPRIMANDED.
3. The registered nursing license issued to Respondent (license number 231563-30), her right to renew her licensed practical nursing license (license number 305708-31) and her privilege to practice in Wisconsin pursuant to the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact, are LIMITED as follows:
 - a. Within ninety (90) days of the date of this Order, Respondent shall at her own expense, successfully complete eight (8) hours of education on the topic of ethics and patient care 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.
 - c. This limitation shall be removed from Respondent's license after satisfying the Board or its designee that Respondent has successfully completed all of the ordered education.
4. Pursuant to the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact, Respondent's nursing practice is limited to Wisconsin during the pendency of this limitation.
5. Within 120 days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$668.80.
6. 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

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

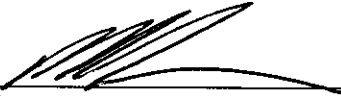
<https://app.wi.gov/DSPSMonitoring>

7. In the event Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's registered nursing license (231563-30), or Respondent's right to renew her licensed practical nursing license (305708-31), 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:



A Member of the Board

6/12/19

Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

MARIA J. PUENTE, R.N.,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
:
:
:

STIPULATION

6234

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 18 NUR 421

Respondent Maria J. Puente, R.N. (Respondent), 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.

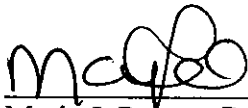
5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Board, the parties shall not be bound by the contents of this Stipulation, and the matter shall then be returned to the Division

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.



Maria J. Puente, R.N., Respondent
9605 74th Street
Kenosha, WI 53142
License no. 231563-30 (Registered Nurse)
License no. 305708-31 (Licensed Practical Nurse)(Expired)

5.21.19

Date



Zachary Hetfield, Attorney
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
P.O. Box 7190
Madison, WI 53707-7190

5/29/19

Date

RECEIVED

MAY 23 2019

DEPT. OF SAFETY & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES & COMPLIANCE