

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

BARBARA A. ADAMS, R.N.,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
: FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
:
:

ORDER 0007425

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 19 NUR 178

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

Barbara A. Adams, R.N.
Merrill, WI 54452

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. Barbara A. Adams, R.N. (Respondent), (Year of Birth 1950) is licensed in the state of Wisconsin as a registered nurse, having license number 65060-30, first issued on September 17, 1976, and current through February 28, 2022. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is in Merrill, Wisconsin 54452.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a registered nurse at a facility (Facility) located in Wausau, Wisconsin.

3. On January 31, 2019, Respondent used Machine 3A, a dialysis machine, on Patient A, who was known to Respondent to be diagnosed with Hepatitis B. After the procedure was

complete, Respondent did not correctly label Machine 3A as the “Hepatitis B” machine with the sign used at the Facility.

4. Later that day, Respondent “charted ahead” and recorded that she used Machine 1A on Patient B in Patient B’s medical record. Machine records show that Respondent in fact used Machine 3A on Patient B, thus potentially exposing Patient B to Hepatitis B infection. Respondent did not check the numbers on the machine before using them for treatment.

5. Respondent later told a new coworker in training and the physician on duty that Respondent possibly made an error by using the incorrect dialysis machine on Patient B, but never notified her manager. Respondent did not review any records or confer with other staff to confirm whether she made an error. Management did not discover the error until February 7, 2019, seven (7) days after the error occurred.

6. Respondent is not currently employed as a nurse.

7. 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).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.


2. The voluntary SURRENDER of the license and privilege of Respondent, (license no. 65060-30) to practice nursing in the State of Wisconsin or under another state license pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact is hereby accepted.

3. In the event Respondent petitions the Board for reinstatement as a nurse in the future, the Board may enter an order denying such application without further notice or hearing. Whether to grant a license and whether to impose any limitations or restrictions on any license granted shall be in the discretion of the Board.

4. In the event Respondent petitions the Board for reinstatement of her license to practice as a nurse in the state of Wisconsin in the future, or applies for another credential with the Department, Respondent shall pay the costs of this matter in the amount of \$1,803.00 before any application is considered.

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

WISCONSIN BOARD OF NURSING

By: 

A Member of the Board

10 June 2021

Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

BARBARA A. ADAMS, R.N.,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
:
:
:

STIPULATION

ORDER 0007425

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 19 NUR 178

Respondent Barbara A. Adams, 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 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.

Barbara A. Adams

Barbara A. Adams, R.N., Respondent
Merrill, WI 54452
License No. 65060-30

5/17/2021

Date

Nicholas Dalla Santa

Nicholas Dalla Santa, Prosecuting Attorney
Department of Safety and Professional Services
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
P.O. Box 7190
Madison WI 53707-7190

5/17/2021

Date