

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
VIRGINIA E. PUIG, R.N., :
RESPONDENT. :

ORDER 0007503

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 20 NUR 440

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

Virginia E. Puig, R.N.
Knapp, WI 54749

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 Virginia E. Puig, R.N., (Year of Birth 1975) is licensed in the state of Wisconsin as a registered nurse, having license number 244131-30, first issued on October 3, 2018 and current through February 28, 2022. Respondent is also licensed in the state of Wisconsin as a licensed practical nurse, having license number 317668-31, first issued on November 26, 2013. This license expired on April 30, 2019 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 29, 2024. Respondent possesses multistate practice privileges pursuant to the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (Compact) on both Wisconsin licenses.

2. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is in Knapp, Wisconsin 54749.

3. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was contracted as a registered nurse for a staffing agency (Agency A) and worked at a hospital in North Dallas, Texas (Hospital).

4. On August 25, 2020, Patient A complained that Respondent did not give her pain medications during Respondent's shift at the Hospital.

5. After the Hospital Supervisor confronted Respondent, Respondent left and failed to return to the Hospital.

6. Respondent's contracts with the Hospital and Agency A were subsequently terminated.

7. Following her termination from Agency A, Respondent began working through a second staffing agency (Agency B) at a transitional care facility (Facility).

8. Respondent's employment with the Facility was terminated on December 9, 2020 after Respondent failed to report to work for scheduled shifts.

9. On December 30, 2020, Respondent was pulled over by the Colleyville, Texas police upon suspicion of driving while under the influence. Respondent was the only occupant of the vehicle and was found in possession of forty (40) medication packets labelled with the names of thirteen (13) Facility patients. The medication packets contained multiple controlled substances, including but not limited to, gabapentin, Apap/codeine, and prednisone. Respondent was also in possession of multiple empty medication packets that had contained controlled substances, including, but not limited to, oxycodone, tramadol, hydrocodone, and lorazepam.

10. The Facility confirmed Respondent recorded administration of the medications to the thirteen (13) Facility patients on the dates listed on the packets.

11. On January 19, 2021, two (2) arrest warrants in Colleyville, Texas, were filed against Respondent for drug possession charges.

12. Respondent denies all wrongdoing but in order to resolve this matter, 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, Respondent violated Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(8)(e), by obtaining, possessing, or attempting to obtain or possess a drug without lawful authority.


3. 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. The voluntary SURRENDER of the licenses and privileges of Respondent to practice nursing in the state of Wisconsin or under another state license pursuant to the Compact (license nos. 244131-30 and 317668-31, respectively) 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 petition 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 as a licensed nurse in the state of Wisconsin or applies for another credential with this Department, Respondent shall pay the costs of this matter in the amount of \$838.00 before any petition or application is considered.
5. This Order is effective on the date of its signing.

WISCONSIN BOARD OF NURSING

By:



A Member of the Board

8/12/2021

Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

VIRGINIA E. PUIG, R.N.,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
:
:
:

STIPULATION

ORDER 0007503

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 20 NUR 440

Respondent Virginia E. Puig, 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

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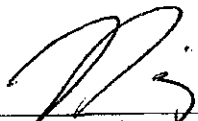
DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES & COMPLIANCE
DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

of Legal Services and Compliance for further proceedings. In the event that the Board's decision 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.



Virginia E. Puig, R.N., Respondent
Knapp, Wisconsin 54749
License Nos. 244131-30 and 317668-31

5/17/2021

Date



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

May 27, 2021

Date