

## WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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The status of an appeal may be found on court access websites at:

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STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

FRANCIS S. STELLA, R.N.,  
RESPONDENT.

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:  
: FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

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**ORDER 0007634**

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 21 NUR 012

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

Francis S. Stella, R.N.  
Marshfield, WI 54449

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 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. Francis S. Stella, R.N. (Respondent), (Year of Birth 1971) is licensed in the state of Wisconsin as a registered nurse with multistate privileges pursuant to the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (Compact)<sup>1</sup>, having license number 243534-30, first issued on August 14, 2018, and current through February 28, 2022. Respondent's most recent address on file with the

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<sup>1</sup>Wisconsin joined the Compact on December 11, 2017; the Compact was implemented on January 19, 2018.

Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is in Marshfield, Wisconsin 54449.

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

3. On January 3, 2021, at approximately 5:00 a.m., a male patient at the Facility (Patient A), requested from Respondent a nicotine patch and access to television. Respondent denied Patient A's request explaining that neither item was allowed at the Facility. Patient A continued to request and negotiate for the items. Respondent responded by using profanity and other objectionable language directed at Patient A.

4. Respondent assumed full responsibility for his actions and advised that he regretted his choice of words as soon as he said them.

5. During the investigation of the complaint, the DLSC determined that when Respondent applied for licensure in Wisconsin, he was inadvertently granted multistate privileges when he only qualified for a single state license. Respondent was convicted of a felony in 2009.

6. 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 engaged in misconduct or abuse, by engaging in repeated or significant disruptive behavior or interaction with a patient that interferes with patient care or could reasonably be expected to adversely impact the quality of care rendered within the meaning of Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(4)(d).

3. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent has been convicted or found guilty, or has entered into an agreed disposition, of a felony offense under applicable state or federal criminal law, within the meaning of Wis. Stat. § 441.51(3)(c)7. Pursuant to this section, a nurse who has been convicted of a felony is not eligible to receive a multistate license.

4. As a result of the above conduct, Respondent is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 441.07(1g)(b), and (d), and Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03.

#### ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. Respondent is **REPRIMANDED**.

3. Respondent's multistate license is deactivated and will not be renewed. Respondent retains a Wisconsin registered nurse single-state license.

4. The registered nurse license issued to Respondent (license no. 243534-30) is LIMITED as follows:

- a. Within ninety (90) days of the date of this Order, Respondent shall at their own expense, successfully complete eight (8) hours of education on the topic of patients' rights and four (4) hours of education on the topic of therapeutic communication 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. The Board's monitoring liaison may change the number of credit hours and/or education topics in response to a request from Respondent. The monitoring liaison may consider the topic availability and/or hours of education when determining if a change to the ordered education should occur.
- d. This limitation shall be removed from Respondent's license after satisfying the Board or its designee that Respondent has successfully completed all the ordered education.

4. Within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$641.00.

5. Any requests, petitions, payments of costs (made payable to Department of Safety and Professional Services), and other information required by this Order shall be submitted to:

Department Monitor  
Division of Legal Services and Compliance  
Department of Safety and Professional Services  
P.O. Box 7190, Madison, WI 53707-7190  
Telephone (608) 266-2112; Fax (608) 266-2264  
DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov

Respondent may also submit this information online at: <https://dpsmonitoring.wi.gov>

6. In the event Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's license (243534-30), or Respondent's right to renew his license, 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.

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

WISCONSIN BOARD OF NURSING

By: *Alex B. Galatawski*  
A Member of the Board of Nursing

10/14/2021  
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

FRANCIS S. STELLA, R.N.,  
RESPONDENT.

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STIPULATION

**ORDER 0007634**

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 21 NUR 012

Francis S. Stella, 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.

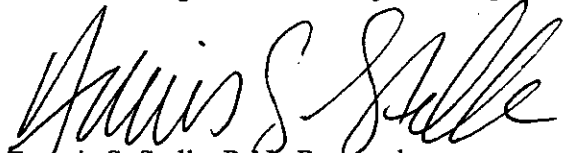
5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Board the parties shall not be bound by the contents of this Stipulation, and the matter shall then be returned to the Division


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.

  
Francis S. Stella, R.N., Respondent  
Marshfield, WI 54449  
License No. 243534-30

  
Date

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

9/29/21  
Date