

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF :
 :
 : FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
 : FOR REMEDIAL EDUCATION
 :
 APRIL J. ROELKE, R.N., :
 LICENSEE. :
 : **ORDER 0007636**

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 20 NUR 541

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

April J. Roelke, R.N.
Columbus, WI 53925

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. Licensee April J. Roelke, R.N., (Year of Birth 1985) is licensed in the state of Wisconsin as a registered nurse with multistate privileges pursuant to the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (Compact), having license number 235690-30, first issued on June 13, 2017, and current through February 28, 2022.¹ Licensee's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is in Columbus, Wisconsin 53925.

¹ Licensee is also licensed in the state of Wisconsin as a licensed practical nurse, having license number 321139-31, first issued on September 22, 2016, and expired as of April 30, 2017. Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.08(3), Licensee retains the right to renew this license upon payment of a fee until April 30, 2022.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Licensee worked as a registered nurse at a correctional institution in Fox Lake, Wisconsin (Facility).

3. On October 3, 2020, Licensee failed to properly physically examine and assess a 45-year-old male diabetic with leukemia (Patient A) who was observed slumped over in his wheelchair and slurring his words. Licensee checked Patient A's blood sugar levels, took his weight, and requested a second urine sample, but failed to obtain other vital signs and conduct other parts of an assessment. Licensee scheduled a follow-up appointment for Patient A with the on-call provider for two days later.

4. On October 5, 2020, Patient A was transferred to a hospital Emergency Department where he was diagnosed with septic shock and methicillin-susceptible *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteremia and underwent emergency surgery.

5. Licensee maintains she saw Patient A at the request of the Facility security supervisor and that she wanted to perform a more thorough evaluation and assessment of Patient A, but she felt pressured to obey security time constraints.

6. On December 21, 2020, Licensee's employment at the Facility was terminated.

7. In resolution of this matter, Licensee consents to the entry of the following Conclusion of Law and Order.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Board of Nursing is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. Within six (6) months of the date of this Order, Licensee shall at her own expense take and successfully complete three (3) hours of education on the topic of critical thinking, five (5) hours of education on the topic of documentation, and three (3) hours of education on the topic of ethics and professionalism as follows:

- a. Each course attended in satisfaction of this Order must be pre-approved by the Board or its designee. Licensee shall be responsible for locating course(s) satisfactory to the Board and for obtaining the required approval of the course(s) from the Board or its designee. Licensee must take and pass any exam offered for the course(s).
- b. Licensee 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 and may not be used in any future attempt to upgrade a credential.

- c. The Board's monitoring liaison may change the number of credit hours and/or education topics in response to a request from Licensee. The monitoring liaison may consider the topic availability and/or hours of education when determining if a change to the ordered education should occur.


3. Requests for course approval and proof of successful course completion shall be sent by Licensee 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) 266-2112; Fax (608) 266-2264
DPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov

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

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

WISCONSIN BOARD OF NURSING

By: 
A Member of the Board

10/14/2021
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF
APRIL J. ROELKE, R.N.,
LICENSEE.

:
:
:
:

STIPULATION

ORDER 0007636

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 20 NUR 541

Licensee April J. Roelke, 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. Licensee consents to the resolution of this investigation by Stipulation.

2. Licensee understands that by signing this Stipulation, Licensee voluntarily and knowingly waives the following rights:

- the right to a hearing on the allegations against Licensee, 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 Licensee;
- the right to call witnesses on Licensee's behalf and to compel their attendance by subpoena;
- the right to testify on Licensee'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 Licensee under the United States Constitution, the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin Statutes, the Wisconsin Administrative Code, and other provisions of state or federal law.

3. Licensee is aware of Licensee's right to seek legal representation and has been provided an opportunity to obtain legal counsel before signing this Stipulation.

4. Licensee 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. Licensee 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 Licensee, 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. Licensee 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 Licensee in recommending the Board adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.



April J. Roelke, R.N., Licensee
Columbus, WI 53925
License No. 235690-30

Date



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

9/22/2021

Date