

## WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY :  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST :  
STEPHANIE M. PETERSEN, R.N., : FINAL DECISION AND ORDER  
RESPONDENT. : Order No. 0007591

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 21 NUR 504

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

Stephanie M. Petersen, R.N.  
Madison, WI 53704

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

An Interim Order was issued in this matter on September 9, 2021. 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. Stephanie M. Petersen, R.N. (Respondent), (Year of Birth 1991) is licensed in the state of Wisconsin as a registered nurse, with multistate privileges pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact (Compact), having license number 229209-30, first issued on June 10, 2016, and expired as of March 1, 2022. Respondent's license was suspended per Board Interim Order No. 0007591 issued September 9, 2021. However, she retains a five-year right to apply to renew her license pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.08(3). Respondent's most recent address on file with the Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is in Madison, Wisconsin 53704.

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

3. On August 20, 2021, the Department received a complaint from the United States Drug Enforcement Administration alleging that Respondent had on multiple occasions diverted and abused controlled substances while at the Facility. The Department's Division of Legal Services and Compliance (Division) reviewed the complaint and opened the investigation of this matter, DLSC Case No. 21 NUR 504.

4. On June 12, 2021, a patient at the Facility asked for pain medication but Respondent charted that he had already received it.

5. The Facility discovered the following during the investigation:

- a. Respondent admitted that she was addicted to narcotics, and she abuses her own prescription of Xanax. She also admitted to diverting pain medications including oxycodone, hydrocodone, morphine, hydromorphone, and tramadol from patients for the last 1.5 years, totaling approximately 100 patients and 200 dosages.
- b. Coworkers interviewed stated they saw Respondent acting frantically, going in and out of patients' rooms looking for her "lost" cell phone.
- c. Patients interviewed stated Respondent came into their rooms to scan their medical bracelets multiple times stating the system wasn't working.
- d. A coworker stated that six (6) of her prescription lorazepam tablets were taken from her purse on the weekend of June 12, 2021.
- e. Respondent admitted that on June 12 and 13, 2021, she diverted, for personal use, from four (4) different patients one (1) tablet of oxycodone 5mg, four (4) tablets of hydrocodone/acetaminophen 5/325mg, and two (2) doses of liquid hydromorphone totaling 1.75mg.

6. On February 11, 2022, Respondent pled guilty to five (5) counts of knowingly and intentionally acquiring hydrocodone/acetaminophen, oxycodone, and hydromorphone by misrepresentation/fraud/deception by entering patient information into the Pyxis machine and removing controlled substances for personal use, Class E felonies, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 843(a)(3) and 843(d)(1) in the United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin, Case Number 22CR020. On July 7, 2022, Respondent was sentenced and received a three-year (3) term of probation and a fine of \$3,500,

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 by Respondent of her license to practice nursing in the state of Wisconsin (license no. 229209-30), or under another state license pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact, as well as her right to renew such license, are hereby accepted.
3. In the event Respondent petitions the Board for reinstatement of her license to practice nursing in the state of Wisconsin or applies for another credential in the state of Wisconsin under Wis. Stat. chs. 440 through 480, Respondent shall pay the costs of this matter in the amount of \$904.00, before any petition or application for a credential will be considered by the applicable board or Department.
4. Respondent shall not petition the Board for reinstatement for at least one (1) year from the date of this Order. If the Respondent petitions for reinstatement after one year, whether to grant a license and whether to impose any limitations or restrictions on any license granted shall be in the sole discretion of the Board and such decision is not reviewable.
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://dspsmonitoring.wi.gov>.

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

WISCONSIN BOARD OF NURSING

By: Robert Weirman TW-LHP  
A Member of the Board

10/13/2022  
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY	:	
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST	:	
	:	STIPULATION
STEPHANIE M. PETERSEN, R.N.,	:	Order No. 0007591
RESPONDENT.	:	

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 21 NUR 504

Stephanie M. Petersen, 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. Respondent is further informed that should the Board adopt this Stipulation, the Board's Final Decision and Order will be reported as required by the National Practitioner Databank (NPDB) Guidebook and as otherwise required by any licensure compact or any other state or federal law.

9. The Division of Legal Services and Compliance joins Respondent in recommending the Board adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.

Stephanie M. Petersen  
Stephanie M. Petersen, R.N., Respondent  
Madison, WI 53704  
License No. 229209-30

9-9-22  
Date

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

9/9/22  
Date