

## 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 :  
 : FINAL DECISION AND ORDER  
GENEVA G. WRIGHT, R.N., :  
RESPONDENT. : **ORDER 000777 1**

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 21 NUR 534

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

Geneva G. Wright, R.N.  
Grayslake, IL 60030

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. Respondent Geneva G. Wright, R.N., (Year of Birth 1989) is licensed in the state of Wisconsin as a registered nurse, having license number 260784-30, first issued on June 17, 2021 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 Grayslake, Illinois 60030.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a critical care nurse at a medical center in Libertyville, Illinois (Facility).

3. On August 23, 2021, the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) issued a Consent Order indefinitely suspending Respondent's Illinois

registered nurse license (number 041429629) for a minimum of three years. The Consent Order was based on the following stipulated facts, *inter alia*:

- a) IDFPR received information that on January 24, 2021, Respondent withheld treatment and made unauthorized changes to the care and delivery of treatment to a COVID-19 patient (Patient A) at the Facility.
- b) Patient A expired on January 27, 2021.
- c) On May 18, 2021, the Lake County, Illinois, Coroner's Office issued a Report of Postmortem Examination which stated Patient A's death was "ascribed to Novel Corona (COVID-19) viral infection with instances of medical mismanagement."
- d) The Facility terminated Respondent's employment on March 1, 2021 and notified the police.

4. According to the Facility investigation and the Libertyville Police Department report, Respondent admitted to taking Patient A off the ventilator for longer-than-normal tracheostomy care<sup>1</sup> hoping that his oxygen saturations would drop. When Respondent put Patient A back on the ventilator, his oxygen rose, so Respondent proceeded to over-program the remaining volume of Levophed in his IV pump hoping that it would run out before the alarm sounded and his blood pressure would fall. Patient A's blood pressure did drop but the IV pump alarm sounded causing Respondent to hang a new bag of Levophed.

5. Respondent admitted to Facility staff that she took these actions "with the purpose of ending the patient's life." She expressed frustration that so many of her patients were sick during the COVID-19 pandemic and how futile the care seemed to be. Respondent described her actions as a "lapse in judgment."

6. On October 5, 2021, Respondent was charged with two counts of Reckless Conduct-Bodily Harm, a misdemeanor, in violation of Illinois Stat. § 720 ILCS 5/12-5(a)(1), in Lake County, Illinois, Circuit Court Case No. 21CM1706. Respondent pled not guilty and the case is pending.

7. On March 11, 2021, after the Facility terminated Respondent's employment, Respondent submitted an application for a Wisconsin registered nurse license. On her application, Respondent answered "no" to the questions "Have you ever been terminated from any employment related to nursing that occurred within the 10 years immediately preceding the date of this application?" and "Is disciplinary action pending against you in any jurisdiction?"

8. In resolution of this matter, Respondent consents to the entry of the following Conclusions of Law and Order.

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<sup>1</sup> According to Detective Walter Rodriguez's sworn testimony at the coroner's inquest, Respondent noted in Patient A's chart that the PEG tube cleaning lasted almost 40 minutes.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Board has jurisdiction to act in this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 441.07(1g) 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(1)(b) by having a license to practice nursing or a nurse licensure compact privilege to practice denied, revoked, suspended, limited, or having the credential holder otherwise disciplined in another state, territory, or country.

3. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent violated Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(2) by violating or aiding and abetting a violation of any law substantially related to the practice of nursing or being convicted of any crime substantially related to the practice of nursing.

4. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent violated Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(4)(c) by abusing a patient by a single or repeated act of force, violence, harassment, deprivation, neglect, or mental pressure which reasonably could cause physical pain, injury, mental anguish, or fear.

5. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent violated Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(5)(e) by committing fraud, deceit, or material omission in obtaining a license or certification or in the renewal of the license or certification.

6. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent violated Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(6)(c) by departing from or failing to conform to the minimal standards of acceptable nursing practice that may create unnecessary risk or danger to a patient's life, health, or safety.

7. As a result of the above violations, Respondent is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 441.07(1g)(a), (b) and (d), and Wis. Admin. Code Ch. N 7.

### ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. The voluntary PERMANENT SURRENDER by Respondent of her license to practice as a registered nurse in the state of Wisconsin (number 260784-30), as well as her right to renew such license, is accepted.

3. This surrender constitutes Respondent's permanent relinquishment of her license to practice as a registered nurse in the state of Wisconsin. The Board will not at any time in the future process or otherwise consider an application or attempt at renewal by Respondent of the credentials necessary to practice as a nurse in the state of Wisconsin.

4. If Respondent ever seeks any other license or credential under Wis. Stat. chs. 440-480, she shall, as a prerequisite to application, pay the costs of this matter in the amount of \$775.00.

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

WISCONSIN BOARD OF NURSING

By: *Gregory J. Jolietowski*  
A Member of the Board

1/13/2022  
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

GENEVA G. WRIGHT, R.N.,  
RESPONDENT.

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:  
:  
:  
:

STIPULATION

**ORDER UUU777 1**

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 21 NUR 534

Respondent Geneva G. Wright, 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 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.



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Geneva G. Wright, R.N., Respondent  
Grayslake, IL 60030  
License No. 260784-30

11/29/2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



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

11/30/2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date