

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

ORDER 0007970

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 21 NUR 559

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

Francis S. Stella, R.N.
Wausau, WI 54403

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 Francis S. Stella, R.N., (Year of Birth 1971) is licensed in the state of Wisconsin as a registered nurse, having license number 243534-30, first issued on August 14, 2018, and current through February 29, 2024. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is in Wausau, Wisconsin 54403.
2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a registered nurse at a hospital in Stevens Point, Wisconsin (Facility).
3. On July 9, 2020, the Board issued an Administrative Warning No. 00001073 to Respondent for cursing and making inappropriate comments to a patient.

4. On January 3, 2021, Respondent used profanity with another patient. On October 14, 2021, the Board issued Order No. 0007634, which reprimanded Respondent and ordered him to complete eight hours of education on patients' rights and four hours of education on therapeutic communication. On January 10, 2022, Respondent satisfied the terms of the Board's Order.

5. On September 9, 2021, prior to the Board issuing Order No. 0007634, the Department received a complaint from the Facility that Respondent had cursed at Patient A, a male born in 1958, and pushed a bedside table towards him on August 10, 2021. Patient A had refused to take his medications because they were late and was not injured.

6. On November 4, 2021, the Department opened this case to investigate the August 10, 2021 incident.

7. Respondent maintains he was suffering with a kidney stone on August 10, 2021, but admits it was unprofessional to use profanity with Patient A.

8. 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. Based on the Findings of Fact, Respondent engaged 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, pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(4)(d).

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. Respondent is REPRIMANDED.

3. Respondent's license to practice as a registered nurse in the state of Wisconsin (license number 243534-30), and his right to renew such license, is LIMITED as follows:

- a. Within ninety (90) days of the date of this Order, Respondent shall at his own expense, successfully complete three (3) hours of education on the topic of anger management for healthcare professionals and three (3) hours of education on the topic of de-escalation techniques 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 120 days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$623.00.
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 by Respondent 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

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 (number 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 Final Decision and Order is effective on the date of its signing.

WISCONSIN BOARD OF NURSING

By:

Robert Weimer TW-CCHP
A Member of the Board

5/12/2022
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

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

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:
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:
:

STIPULATION

ORDER 0007970

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 21 NUR 559

Respondent Francis S. Stella, 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

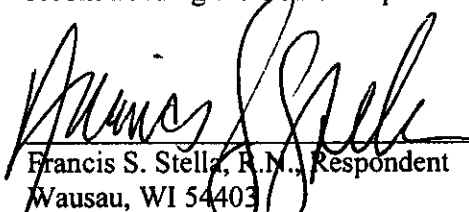
of Legal Services and Compliance for further proceedings. In the event that the Stipulation is not accepted by the Board, the parties agree not to contend that the Board has been prejudiced or biased in any manner by the consideration of this attempted resolution.

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.

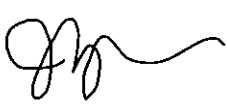
8. Respondent is further informed that should the Board adopt this Stipulation, the Board's Final Decision and Order will be reported as required by the National Practitioner Databank (NPDB) Guidebook and as otherwise required by any licensure compact or any other state or federal law.

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.



Francis S. Stella, R.N., Respondent
Wausau, WI 54403
License No. 243534-30

04/26/2022
Date



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

4/26/2022
Date