

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

KELLY R. ECKMAN-DAX, R.N.,
RESPONDENT.

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FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

ORDER 0008005

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 21 NUR 792

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

Kelly R. Eckman-Dax, R.N.
Milwaukee, WI 53218

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 Kelly R. Eckman-Dax, R.N., (Year of Birth 1967) 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 131287-30, first issued on December 22, 1998. This license expired on March 1, 2020, and has not been renewed. Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.08(3), Respondent retains the right to apply to renew her license until February 28, 2025.

2. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is in Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53218.

3. Respondent also holds a license to practice as a registered nurse in the state of Florida (license number RN9200738).

4. On December 8, 2021, the Florida Department of Health summarily restricted Respondent's Florida license based on the following facts:

- a. On March 22, 2021, Respondent presented to work as a nurse at a Florida hospital and was observed to smell of alcohol and appeared intoxicated. Respondent refused to undergo a drug and alcohol screening and was terminated.
- b. On April 2, 2021, Respondent was evaluated and diagnosed with alcohol use disorder (moderate) and work-induced insomnia. The evaluator determined that Respondent was unable to practice nursing with reasonable skill and safety and recommended that Respondent enter a partial hospitalization program and engage in a monitoring contract with the Intervention Project for Nurses (IPN).
- c. On September 8, 2021, the Florida Department of Health issued an Order Compelling an Examination.
- d. On October 12, 2021, Respondent was examined and diagnosed with anxiety disorder, insomnia disorder, severe alcohol use disorder and severe other substance use disorder. The examiner determined that Respondent was unable to practice nursing with reasonable skill and safety and recommended that Respondent enter into an intensive outpatient program and engage in a monitoring program with IPN.
- e. Respondent had not engaged in the recommended treatment and was not under an IPN monitoring contract.

5. Respondent disagrees with the facts as concluded by the Florida Department of Health but desires to voluntarily surrender her Wisconsin license instead of proceeding with an investigation and disciplinary proceedings.

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 had a license to practice nursing or a nurse licensure compact privilege to practice denied, revoked, suspended, limited, or the credential holder was otherwise disciplined in another state, territory, or country, within meaning of Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(1)(b).

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

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. The VOLUNTARY SURRENDER by Respondent of her license to practice as a registered nurse in the state of Wisconsin (license number 131287-30), her right to renew such license, and her privilege to practice in Wisconsin under another state license pursuant to the Compact, is accepted.

3. In the event Respondent petitions the Board for reinstatement of her license to practice as a registered nurse in the state of Wisconsin, the Board may enter an order denying such application without further notice or hearing. 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.

4. In the event Respondent petitions the Board for reinstatement of her license to practice as a registered nurse 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 \$465.00, before any petition or application for a credential will be considered by the applicable board or Department.

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

WISCONSIN BOARD OF NURSING

By: Jose P. Motewski RN
A Member of the Board

6/9/22
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

KELLY R. ECKMAN-DAX, R.N.,
RESPONDENT.

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STIPULATION

ORDER 0008005

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 21 NUR 792

Respondent Kelly R. Eckman-Dax, 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

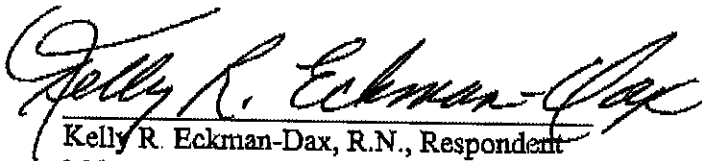
of Legal Services and Compliance for further proceedings. In the event that the Stipulation is not accepted by the Board, the parties agree not to contend that the Board has been prejudiced or biased in any manner by the consideration of this attempted resolution.

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.



Kelly R. Eckman-Dax, R.N., Respondent
Milwaukee, WI 53218
License No. 131287-30

5/14/2022
Date



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

05/16/2022
Date