

## WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY :  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST :  
: FINAL DECISION AND ORDER  
RONDA DITTER, M.D., :  
RESPONDENT. : **ORDER 0008507**

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 22 MED 339

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

Ronda Ditter, M.D.  
Westby, WI 54667

Wisconsin Medical Examining Board  
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 agree to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final disposition of this matter, subject to the approval of the Medical Examining Board (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 Ronda Ditter, M.D., (Year of Birth 1968) is licensed in the state of Wisconsin to practice medicine and surgery, having license number 46811-20, first issued on April 30, 2004, with current through October 31, 2023. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is in Westby, Wisconsin 54667.

2. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent practiced emergency medicine at healthcare facilities in Sparta and La Crosse, Wisconsin (Facility).

3. On June 14, 2022, a nurse reported to the Chair of the Facility's emergency department (ED) that Respondent showed signs of impairment during her shift in the ED.

4. When the Chair arrived at the ED, he saw eight patients on the board, seven of whom had not yet been evaluated by Respondent. All the patients on the board had been there at least 90 minutes.

5. The Chair observed that Respondent was unable to put sentences together and was stuttering. He also noticed that she was pale, tremulous, and looked and sounded differently than normal. He concluded Respondent was not in the proper frame of mind to provide patient care.

6. The Chair asked Respondent to submit to a reasonable suspicion drug test, but she refused. Respondent maintains that she was willing to participate in immediate secure drug testing and that even after she left the Facility, she contacted the Chair to inquire about testing options but no acceptable options were made available to her.

7. On July 5, 2022, the Facility terminated Respondent's employment based on its investigation, which found that Respondent was impaired on June 14, 2022 and refused testing in violation of policy. Specifically, the Facility's investigation determined Respondent had exhibited the following behavior:

- a. Being disengaged, oblivious to patient needs, and failing to attend to patients in a timely manner.
- b. Swaying and walking aimlessly.
- c. Not making sense when talking, being incapable of forming complete sentences, and slurring words.
- d. Repeatedly closing her eyes, having hooded upper eyelids, and seeming to be "out in left field."
- e. Picking gloves out of thin air because she could not get them out of the box.
- f. Stumbling into a wall and missing a doorway entrance.

8. Respondent acknowledges that on the day in question she was exhausted due to both an extended work schedule and caring for a family member who had recently been discharged from the hospital. She regrets having worked on that day but denies being impaired in any other way or exhibiting the behavior in paragraph 7.

9. Respondent denies engaging in any unprofessional conduct but in order to avoid litigation and 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. § 448.02(3) 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 unprofessional conduct by practicing or attempting to practice under any license when unable or unwilling to do so with reasonable skill and safety, pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code § Med 10.03(2)(a).

3. As a result of the above violation, Respondent is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 448.02(3)(c).

#### ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. Respondent is REPRIMANDED.

3. Respondent's license and registration to practice medicine and surgery in the state of Wisconsin (no. 46811-20), is LIMITED as follows:

- a. Within sixty (60) days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall, at her own expense, undergo an alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA) assessment with an evaluator pre-approved by the Board or its designee who has experience conducting AODA assessments.
- b. Prior to the assessment, Respondent shall provide a copy of this Order to the evaluator. Respondent shall provide the Department Monitor with written acknowledgment from the evaluator that a copy of this Order has been received by the evaluator. Such acknowledgment shall be provided to the Department Monitor prior to the assessment.
- c. Respondent shall provide and keep on file with the evaluator current releases complying with state and federal laws. The releases shall allow the Board, its designee, and any employee of the Department to obtain a copy of the assessment. Copies of these releases shall immediately be filed with the Department Monitor.
- d. Respondent shall identify and provide the evaluator with authorizations to communicate with all physicians, mental health professionals, and facilities at which Respondent has been treated or evaluated.
- e. The Board, or its designee, may impose additional limitations upon Respondent's license based on the results of the AODA assessment and/or the evaluator's recommendations.
- f. Respondent shall comply with the evaluator's recommendations.

4. Within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$882.00.

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 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. In the event Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's license and registration (no. 46811-20), or Respondent's right to renew her license and registration, 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 Order is effective on the date of its signing.

WISCONSIN MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

By:   
A Member of the Board

4/19/2023  
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

RONDA DITTER, M.D.,  
RESPONDENT.

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:  
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STIPULATION

**ORDER 0008507**

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 22 MED 339

Respondent Ronda Ditter, M.D., 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. Respondent is represented by Attorney Peyton Engel.

4. Respondent agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board (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.

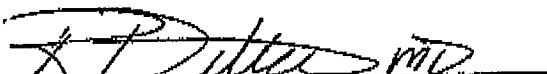
of Legal Services and Compliance for further proceedings. In the event that the Stipulation is not accepted by the Board, the parties agree not to contend that the Board has been prejudiced or biased in any manner by the consideration of this attempted resolution.

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.

  
Ronda Ditter, M.D., Respondent  
Westby, WI 54667  
License No. 46811-20

3/13/23  
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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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.


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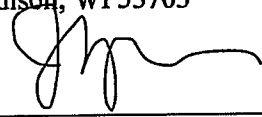
9. The Division of Legal Services and Compliance joins Respondent in recommending the Board adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.

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Ronda Ditter, M.D., Respondent  
Westby, WI 54667  
License No. 46811-20

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
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Peyton B. Engel, Attorney for Respondent  
Hurley Burish, S.C.  
33 East Main St., Suite 400  
Madison, WI 53703

3/15/2023  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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

3/16/2023  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date