

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

AMBER K. KNOWER, R.N.,
RESPONDENT.

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INTERIM ORDER

ORDER 0008536

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 23 NUR 176

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

Amber K. Knowler, R.N.
Eau Claire, WI 54701-1822

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 agree to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as an Interim Order in 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, Conclusion of Law, and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent Amber K. Knowler, R.N., (Year of Birth 1982) is licensed in the state of Wisconsin as a registered nurse, having license number 154308-30, first issued on May 10, 2006, and current through February 29, 2024. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is in Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701.

PRIOR DISCIPLINE

2. On July 13, 2017, the Board issued Order No. 0005376, reprimanding Respondent and limiting her license (Board Order) for documenting administration of hydrocodone for a patient to whom Respondent was not assigned to care for.

3. The Board required Respondent to complete an alcohol and other drug assessment (AODA).

4. On November 15, 2017, the Board restored Respondent's license to full unrestricted status after she completed the AODA required by the Board Order.

CURRENT CASE

5. At all times relevant to these proceeding, Respondent was employed as a registered nurse at facilities located in Barron, Portage and Harris, Wisconsin.

6. On January 26, 2023, Respondent was terminated by a nursing facility in Barron, Wisconsin, due to alleged performance issues and pending Barron Police Department investigation.

7. On February 6, 2023, in Columbia County Circuit Court Case No. 2023CF000070, Respondent was charged with one count of Obtain Controlled Substance by Fraud with the modifier Crime Against an Elderly or Disabled Person, a class H felony, in violation of Wis. Stat. § 100.264(2)(b)5, and one count of Theft – Movable Property ≤\$2500 with the modifier Crime Against an Elderly or Disabled Person and the modifier Penalty-Theft if Value ≤\$2500, a class A misdemeanor, in violation of Wis. Stat. § 943.20(3)(a). The allegations underlying the aforementioned charges took place when Respondent worked at a facility in Portage, Wisconsin, in October 2022.

8. On March 1, 2023, in Marquette County Circuit Court Case No. 2023CF000021, Respondent was charged with one count of Obtain Controlled Substance by Fraud with the modifier Crime Against an Elderly or Disabled Person, a class H felony, in violation of Wis. Stat. § 100.264(2)(b)5, and one count of Theft – Movable Property ≤\$2500 with the modifier Crime Against an Elderly or Disabled Person, a class A misdemeanor, in violation of Wis. Stat. § 943.20(3)(a). The allegations underlying the aforementioned charges took place when Respondent worked at a facility in Harris, Wisconsin, in October 2022.

9. On March 8, 2023, the Department's Division of Legal Services and Compliance received a complaint alleging that Respondent diverted oxycodone from Facility patients in Barron, Wisconsin.

10. As of the date of this Order, the Board has not determined whether Respondent violated any statutes or rules related to the practice of nursing.

11. Respondent voluntarily agrees to suspend her practice as a registered nurse in the state of Wisconsin pending the final resolution of DLSC Case No. 23 NUR 176, and therefore consents to the entry of the following Conclusion of Law and Order.

12. Respondent's consent to the entry of this Interim Order does not constitute an admission of guilt of the allegations referenced in paragraphs 7-9 above, or of any act of professional misconduct.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Board of Nursing has jurisdiction to act in this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 441.07 and has authority to enter into this stipulation for an Interim Order pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).

ORDER


1. The Stipulation of the parties is accepted.

2. Respondent's license to practice as a registered nurse in the state of Wisconsin (license no. 154308-30), and her privilege to practice in Wisconsin pursuant to the Compact, are SUSPENDED during the pendency of this disciplinary matter.

3. The suspension shall remain in effect until the Board issues a Final Decision and Order in DLSC Case No. 23 NUR 176.

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

WISCONSIN BOARD OF NURSING

By: 
A Member of the Board

5/11/2023
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

AMBER K. KNOWER, R.N.,
RESPONDENT.

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STIPULATION
FOR INTERIM ORDER

ORDER 0008536

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 23 NUR 176

Respondent Amber K. Knower, 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 in the course of a pending investigation by the Division of Legal Services and Compliance.

2. Respondent is aware of her right to seek legal representation and has been provided an opportunity to obtain legal counsel before signing this Stipulation.


3. Respondent agrees to the adoption of the attached Interim Order by the Board of Nursing (Board). The parties to the Stipulation consent to the entry of the attached Interim Order without further notice, pleading, appearance or consent of the parties. Respondent waives all rights to any appeal of the attached Interim Order, if adopted in the form as attached.

4. 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 be returned to the Division of Legal Services and Compliance for further proceedings. In the event this 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.

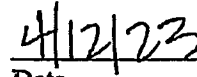
5. The parties to this Stipulation agree that the attorney or other agent for the Division of Legal Services and Compliance and any member of the Board ever assigned as an advisor in this investigation may appear before the Board in open or closed session, without the presence of Respondent or Respondent's attorney, 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 Interim Order.

6. Respondent is informed that should the Board adopt this Stipulation, the Board's Interim Order is a public record and will be published in accordance with standard Department procedure.

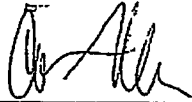
7. The Division of Legal Services and Compliance joins Respondent in recommending the Board adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Interim Order.



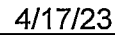
Amber K. Knower, R.N., Respondent
Eau Claire, WI 54701
License No. 154308-30



Date



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



Date