

## 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  
BARBARA JOHNSON FARMER, R.N., A.P.N.P., :  
RESPONDENT. : **ORDER 0008626**

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 21 NUR 207

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

Barbara Johnson Farmer, R.N., A.P.N.P.  
Milwaukee, WI 53227

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 Barbara Johnson Farmer, R.N., A.P.N.P., (Year of Birth 1952) is licensed in the state of Wisconsin as a registered nurse, having license number 133131-30, first issued on August 16, 1999, and current through February 29, 2024. Respondent is also certified in the state of Wisconsin as an advanced practice nurse prescriber, having certificate number 2798-33, first issued on March 8, 2006, and current through September 30, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

2. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is in Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53227.

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<sup>1</sup> Respondent has applied for renewal of her APNP certification, and her renewal application is pending.

3. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent owned and operated a pain management clinic in Milwaukee, Wisconsin (Clinic).

4. On January 7, 2021, Respondent was charged with three (3) counts of Medical Assistance Fraud, a felony, in violation of Wis. Stat. §946.91(2)(a), in Milwaukee County Circuit Court Case No. 2021CF000782.

5. On April 14, 2021, Respondent reported the criminal charges to the Department.

6. According to the Criminal Complaint and the Wisconsin Department of Justice Medicaid Fraud Control and Elder Abuse Unit's investigation, Respondent made false statements or representations of material fact in applications for Medicaid payments regarding three patients.

7. Respondent did not possess the necessary qualifications to be a Medicaid provider who can seek payment using CPT code L0631 for a custom fitted lumbar-sacral orthosis. Respondent had previously submitted Medicaid claims under CPT code L0631 for the three patients as the listed Medicaid provider and was denied.

8. In October and November 2017, Respondent's Clinic resubmitted the claims to Medicaid using CPT code L0631 and listed a physical therapist as the provider. However, the physical therapist listed by Respondent's Clinic in the Medicaid claims did not perform a custom fitting for the three patients.

9. On May 30, 2018, Respondent closed the Clinic.

10. On April 10, 2023, the Court dismissed all criminal charges against Respondent after Respondent agreed to voluntarily exclude herself from Wisconsin Medicaid.

11. 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 violated or aided and abetted a violation of any law substantially related to the practice of nursing within the meaning of Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(2).

3. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent engaged in abusive or fraudulent billing practices, including violations of federal Medicare and Medicaid laws or state laws, within the meaning of Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(5)(c).

4. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent submitted false claims, within the meaning of Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(5)(d).

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

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.
2. Respondent is REPRIMANDED.
3. Respondent's license to practice as a registered nurse (license number 133131-30), her certificate to practice as an advanced practice nurse prescriber (certificate number 2798-33), and her privilege to practice in Wisconsin pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact (Compact), are LIMITED as follows:
  - a. Within ninety (90) days of the date of this Order, Respondent shall at her own expense, successfully complete three (3) hours of education on the topic of professional ethics offered by a provider pre-approved by the Board's monitoring liaison, including taking and passing any exam offered for the course(s).
  - 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 ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$938.00.
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://dpsmonitoring.wi.gov>.

6. In the event Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's license (number 133131-30) and certificate (number 2798-33), or Respondent's right to renew her license and certificate, 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 BOARD OF NURSING

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_   
A Member of the Board of Nursing

7/13/2023  
\_\_\_\_\_   
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY :  
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST :  
BARBARA JOHNSON FARMER, R.N., A.P.N.P., :  
RESPONDENT. :

STIPULATION  
**ORDER 0008626**

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Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 21 NUR 207

Respondent Barbara Johnson Farmer, R.N., A.P.N.P., 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.

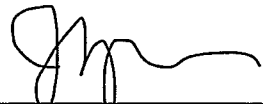
7. Respondent is informed that should the Board adopt this Stipulation, the Board's Final Decision and Order is a public record and will be published in accordance with standard Department procedure.

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.

  
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Barbara Johnson Farmer, R.N., A.P.N.P., Respondent  
Milwaukee, WI 53227  
License No. 133131-30  
Certificate No. 2798-33

6/22/23  
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

6/22/2023  
Date