

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
BRENT T. HASSEMER, R.N., :
RESPONDENT. : ORDER0008913

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 23 NUR 538

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

Brent T. Hassemer, R.N.
Bloomer, WI 54724

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. Brent T. Hassemer, R.N. (Respondent), (Year of Birth 1968) is licensed in the state of Wisconsin as a registered nurse, having license number 113926-30, first issued on September 24, 1993, 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 Bloomer, Wisconsin 54724.

PRIOR DISCIPLINE

2. On November 15, 2019, Respondent was disciplined in Case No. 18 NUR 212 after he engaged in inappropriate conduct and communication with female co-workers. In Order No.

6533, Respondent was reprimanded and required to complete seven hours of education in professional accountability and ethics and professionalism.

CURRENT CASE

3. At all times relevant to this proceeding, Respondent was employed as a registered nurse at a hospital in Eau Claire, Wisconsin (Facility).

4. On July 10, 2023, Respondent was working in the emergency department at the Facility. Patient A, a 31-year-old female, presented for care and Respondent triaged her then escorted her to a treatment room.

5. After this encounter, Patient A filed a complaint with the Facility alleging that Respondent hugged, kissed, and groped her during triage. She further stated that Respondent tried to call her with her test results, texted her multiple times, added her on a social media platform, and sent pictures of himself.

6. Patient A provided screenshots of text communications with Respondent. Texts from Respondent include:

- a. "Thank you so much for the hug."
- b. "Let me know if you ever need a hug again! [winking emoji] It would be nice to give you a hug outside of the hospital."
- c. [In response to Patient A's description of her current alcohol withdrawal symptoms.] "You will get through these withdrawals. Let me know if I can do anything for you!!"
- d. "Your hugs are amazing."
- e. "I would do anything to give you another hug!! I felt so calm in your arms."
- f. "I would do anything to get a hug from you."
- g. "Hopefully it can be a longer hug next time."
- h. "I did send you a pic on Snap [Chat] last night."
- i. "Now you can be horny!"
- j. "Your hugs are flippin amazing."
- k. A kissing emoji.
- l. "I noticed that you really needed a hug."
- m. "Do you need another hug?"

- n. "If you ever need another hug, would you like one from me?"
- o. [In response to Patient A stating she knew Respondent wanted her to kiss him.] "I did. But not obviously at work."
- p. [In response to Patient A's text of "Well it went from hug to kisses on my head and some body rubs and a little booty grab... just wasn't expecting that from my nurse. I did need the physical contact, but it was still unexpected."] "Sorry about that." "That was wrong of me." "Again, I am sorry."

7. Respondent admits to hugging Patient A, exchanging personal phone numbers, agreeing to see her again, and sending her personal text messages. Respondent admits these actions were inappropriate.

8. Respondent denies kissing or inappropriately touching Patient A. However, he admits that he wanted to kiss Patient A, but would not do so while at work.

9. During the investigation, when addressing the content of the text messages as they would relate to appropriate professional boundaries, Respondent repeatedly attempted to distinguish between the "professional" messages and the "personal" messages. Respondent characterized several of the communications as "personal" since Patient A gave him her phone number, and many were made after Respondent had clocked out of work.

10. When asked about his previous discipline in relation to this current matter, Respondent denies his behavior is persistent since this is his first complaint from a patient.

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 failed to establish, maintain, or communicate professional boundaries with a patient, within the meaning of Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(4)(e)1.a.

3. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent exploited a professional relationship with a patient for the his emotional, financial, sexual, or personal advantage or benefit, within the meaning of Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(4)(e)1.c.

4. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent engaged in self-disclosure to a patient which creates a risk or adversely impacts the patient's care and well-being, within meaning of Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(4)(e)1.f.

5. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent engaged in sexually explicit conduct, sexual contact, exposure, gratification, or other sexual behavior with or in the presence of a patient, within the meaning of Wis. Admin. Code § N(4)(f)1.a.

6. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent engaged in conduct that may reasonably be interpreted by a patient as sexual or any verbal behavior that is sexually harassing to a patient, within the meaning of Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(4)(f)1.b.

7. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent engaged or attempted to engage in sexual or seductive conduct with a former patient, within the meaning of Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(4)(f)1.e.

8. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Respondent engaged or attempted to engage in sexual or seductive conduct with a patient with a substance use disorder, within two years after the termination of nursing services, within the meaning of Wis. Admin. Code § N 7.03(4)(f)2.

9. 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's license to practice as a registered nurse in the state of Wisconsin (license no. 113926-30), is SUSPENDED for fourteen (14) days.

3. Respondent's license to practice as a registered nurse in the state of Wisconsin (license number 113926-30), and his privilege to practice in Wisconsin pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact (Compact), are LIMITED as follows:

- a. For a period of at least two (2) years from the date of this Order, Respondent shall arrange for quarterly written reports to be submitted to the Department Monitor from his supervisor at each setting in which Respondent practiced nursing in the previous quarter.
- b. These reports shall be submitted as directed by the Department Monitor, shall assess Respondent's work performance, and shall include the number of hours of active nursing practice worked during the quarter.
- c. If a report indicates less than satisfactory performance, the Board may institute appropriate corrective limitations, up to and including further suspension, in its discretion.

4. After two (2) consecutive years of successful compliance with this Order, the Respondent may petition the Board for return of full licensure. The Board may grant or deny any petition, in its discretion, or may modify this Order as it sees fit.

5. Within 120 days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$1,070.00. If costs are not paid 120 days from the date of this Order, interest shall accrue at the statutory rate of 12% per annum, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.22(2).

6. 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
DPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov

Respondent may also submit this information online at: <https://dpsmonitoring.wi.gov>.

7. In the event Respondent violates any term of this Order, Respondent's license (number 113926-30), 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. The Board or its designee may terminate the suspension if provided with sufficient information that Respondent is in compliance with the Order and that it is appropriate for the suspension to be terminated. Whether to terminate the suspension shall be wholly in the discretion of the Board or its designee. 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.

8. This Order is effective beginning ten (10) calendar days from the signing of this Order.

WISCONSIN BOARD OF NURSING

By: 
A Member of the Board

12/14/23
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY	:	
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST	:	
	:	STIPULATION
BRENT T. HASSEMER, R.N.,	:	
RESPONDENT.	:	ORDER0008913

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 23 NUR 538

Brent T. Hassemer, R.N. (Respondent), 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

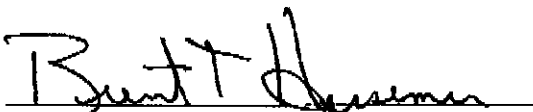
of Legal Services and Compliance for further proceedings. In the event that the Stipulation is not accepted by the Board, the parties agree not to contend that the Board has been prejudiced or biased in any manner by the consideration of this attempted resolution.

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.


Brent T. Hassemer, R.N., Respondent
Bloomer, WI 54724
License No. 113926-20

11-20-2023
Date


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

November 22, 2023
Date

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