

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING**

Department of Public Health

Petition No. 2006-0222-010-015

vs.

Christine Stasulli, RN, Lic. No. R17802  
Respondent

**MEMORANDUM OF DECISION**

***Procedural Background***

The Board of Examiners for Nursing (hereinafter “the Board”) was presented by the Department of Public Health (hereinafter “the Department”) with a Statement of Charges and Motion for Summary Suspension dated May 25, 2006. Dept. Exh. 1. The Statement of Charges alleged violations of certain provisions of Chapter 378 of the General Statutes of Connecticut by Christine Stasulli (hereinafter “respondent”) which would subject respondent’s registered nurse license to disciplinary action pursuant to *Conn. Gen. Stat.* §§ 19a-17 and 20-99(b).

Based on the allegations in the Statement of Charges and accompanying affidavits and reports, the Board found that respondent’s continued nursing practice presented a clear and immediate danger to public health and safety. On June 21, 2006, the Board ordered, pursuant to its authority under § 4-182(c) and § 19a-17(c) of the General Statutes of Connecticut, that respondent’s registered nurse license be summarily suspended pending a final determination by the Board of the allegations contained in the Statement of Charges. Dept. Exh. 1.

The Board issued a Notice of Hearing dated June 21, 2006, scheduling a hearing for July 19, 2006. Dept. Exh. 1.

Respondent was provided notice of the hearing and charges against her. The Summary Suspension Order, Notice of Hearing and Statement of Charges were delivered to respondent’s address of record by State Marshal. Dept. Exh. 1.

The hearing took place on July 19, 2006, in Room 1-A, Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

Respondent was not present during the hearing and was not represented by counsel. Transcript, July 19, 2006, pp. 2.

Respondent submitted a letter dated June 14, 2006 in which she denies the charges against her. Board. Exh. A. Transcript, July 19, 2006, pp. 7.

Each member of the Board involved in this decision attests that he/she was present at the hearing or has reviewed the record, and that this decision is based entirely on the record, the law, and the Board's specialized professional knowledge in evaluating the evidence.

### *Findings of Fact*

Based on the testimony given and the exhibits offered into evidence, the Board makes the following Findings of Fact:

1. Respondent was issued registered nurse license number R17802 on November 23, 1965. Respondent was the holder of said license at all times referenced in the Statement of Charges. Dept. Exh. 2, tab-B.
2. Pursuant to a Memorandum of Decision dated March 10, 1993, respondent's registered nurse license was revoked subsequent to findings that respondent has a history of alcohol abuse and that respondent consumed and was under the influence of alcohol while working as a registered nurse. Dept. Exh. 2, tab-A40-A45.
3. Pursuant to a Reinstatement Consent Order dated July 16, 1997, respondent's registered nurse license was reinstated and placed on probation for a period of four years. Upon successful completion of the probation respondent's license was fully restored without restrictions. Dept. Exh. 2, tab-A46-A54; tab-B.
4. Respondent was employed as a registered nurse at The Curtis Home, Meriden, Connecticut. Dept. Exh. 2.
5. On or about February 11, 2006, while on duty as a registered nurse at The Curtis Home, respondent had a strong smell of alcohol on her breath. Respondent was also observed by staff going to her car and drinking something. Dept. Exh. 2-tab A13-A16; Transcript, July 19, 2006, p. 9- 16.

***Conclusions of Law and Discussion***

In consideration of the above Findings of Fact, the following conclusions are rendered:

Christine Stasulli held a valid registered nurse license in the State of Connecticut at all times referenced in the Statement of Charges.

The Notice of Hearing and Statement of Charges provided sufficient legal notice as mandated by *Conn. Gen. Stat.* §§ 4-177(a) and (b), and 4-182(c). The hearing was held in accordance with *Conn. Gen. Stat.* Chapters 54 and 368a as well as §§ 19a-9-1 through 19a-9-29 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

The Notice of Hearing, Statement of Charges, and the hearing process provided respondent with the opportunity to demonstrate compliance with all lawful requirements for the retention of her license as required by *Conn. Gen. Stat.* § 4-182(c).

The Department bears the burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence in this matter.

**PARAGRAPH 3** of the Statement of Charges alleges that on or about February 11, 2006, while working as a registered nurse at The Curtis Home, Meriden, Connecticut, respondent abused or excessively used alcohol.

**PARAGRAPH 4** of the Statement of Charges alleges that on or about February 2006, respondent abused or excessively used alcohol.

**PARAGRAPH 5** of the Statement of Charges alleges that respondent's abuse of alcohol does, and/or may, affect her practice as a registered nurse.

The General Statutes of Connecticut § 20-99 provides in relevant part:

(a) The Board of Examiners for Nursing shall have jurisdiction to hear all charges of conduct which fails to conform to the accepted standards of the nursing profession brought against persons licensed to practice nursing. After holding a hearing . . . said board, if it finds such person to be guilty, may revoke or suspend his or her license or take any of the actions set forth in section 19a-17. . . .

(b) Conduct which fails to conform to the accepted standards of the nursing profession includes, but is not limited to, the following . . .  
(2) illegal conduct, incompetence or negligence in carrying out usual nursing functions . . . (5) abuse or excessive use of drugs, including alcohol, narcotics or chemicals...

Based on the evidence presented, including the credible witness testimony, the Board concludes that a preponderance of the evidence establishes that respondent consumed and was under the influence of alcohol while on duty as a registered nurse on February 11, 2006. The Board concludes that the conduct as alleged in Paragraphs 3, 4, and 5 of the Statement of Charges is proven and that said conduct constitutes grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to *Conn. Gen. Stat.* §§20-99(b)(2)(5) and 19a-17.

***Order***

Pursuant to its authority under *Conn. Gen. Stat.* §§ 19a-17 and 20-99, the Board of Examiners for Nursing hereby orders the following:

That for Paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of the Statement of Charges, respondent's registered nurse license number R17802, is revoked effective the date this Memorandum of Decision is signed by the Board.

The Board of Examiners for Nursing hereby informs respondent, Christine Stasulli, and the Department of Public Health of the State of Connecticut of this decision.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut this 6<sup>th</sup> day of December 2006.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING

By Joan Dolibius, CNA, APRN

**CERTIFICATION**

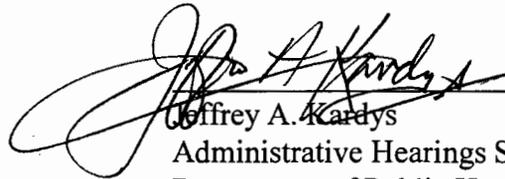
I hereby certify that, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-180(c), a copy of the foregoing Memorandum of Decision was sent this 7th day of December 2006, by certified mail, return receipt requested and first class mail, to:

Christine Stasulli, RN  
118 Westside Drive  
Hamden, CT 06514

Certified Mail RRR #70042510000753840794

and by Inter-Departmental Mail to:

Stanley K. Peck, Director  
Legal Office  
Department of Public Health  
410 Capitol Avenue, MS #12LEG  
Hartford, CT 06134-0308



Jeffrey A. Kardys

Administrative Hearings Specialist/Board Liaison  
Department of Public Health  
Public Health Hearing Office