

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING

IN RE:

SANDRA ESTELLA PIERCE, R.N.
Russet Lane Drive
Middletown, Connecticut 06457

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

The Board of Examiners for Nursing was presented by the Department of Health Services with a Notice of Hearing and Statement of Charges dated March 31, 1983.

The Statement of Charges alleged violations of certain provisions of Chapter 378, Connecticut General Statutes. The Notice of Hearing provided that the hearing would take place on April 12, 1983, in the State Armory, 360 Broad Street, Room 308, (between Capitol and Farmington Avenues) Hartford Connecticut 06106. The hearing was delayed until May 13, 1983 at the request of the respondent's attorney, Charles W. Snow, Esq.

Each member of the Board of Examiners for Nursing involved in this decision attests that he/she has reviewed the record, and that this decision is based entirely on the record.

FACTS

1. Sandra Estella Pierce (hereafter respondent) was at all pertinent times licensed to practice nursing as a registered nurse in Connecticut, with registration number R-25360.

2. Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, Section 4-182(c), the respondent was provided a full opportunity prior to the institution of agency action to show compliance with all the terms for the retention of her license.

3. While employed and on duty as a registered nurse at Walnut Hill Convalescent Home, a skilled nursing facility, 55 Grand Street, New Britain, Connecticut, Respondent: (a) unlawfully diverted for her own use Dilaudid (a controlled substance) one milligram tablets, from a prescription for a patient, Helen Meroni, and (b) unlawfully falsified entries in the prescription disposition record pertaining to patient Helen Meroni.

4. While employed and on duty as a registered nurse at New Britain Memorial Hospital in New Britain, Connecticut, the respondent: (a) unlawfully diverted Demerol, a controlled substance, and intermuscularly injected it into herself, and (b) unlawfully falsified entries as to Demerol in prescription disposition records.

DISCUSSION

5. Section 20-99(b)(2), Conn. Gen. Stat., forbids illegal conduct, incompetence or negligence in carrying out usual nursing functions.

Section 20-99(b)(5) forbids abuse or excessive use of drugs, including alcohol, narcotics or chemicals. By virtue of its finding of facts 3(a) and 4(a) (above), the Board concludes that the Respondent has violated these provisions and enters a finding of guilty on the first and third counts of the Statement of Charges.

6. Section 20-99(b)(6) forbids fraud or material deception in the course of professional services or activities. By virtue of its finding of facts 3(b) and 4(b) (above), the Board concludes that the Respondent has violated this provision and enters a finding of guilty on the second and fourth counts of the Statement of Charges. (Exhibit A).

ORDER

7. It is the unanimous decision of the Board of Examiners for Nursing that, effective upon receipt of this order:

a. The license of the respondent be suspended for a minimum period of three (3) years determined as follows:

i. as to the First Count, suspension for twelve (12) months;

ii. as to the Second Count, suspension for six (6) months; to run concurrently with Count number four;

iii. as to the Third Count, suspension for eighteen (18) months;

iv. as to the Fourth Count, suspension for six (6) months; to run concurrently with Count number two.

b. At the end of the three (3) years specified in (a), the respondent may apply for reinstatement after submitting supportive data from a licensed therapist or physician indicating that she is drug free, and is able to resume the practice of nursing. Verification from said therapist or physician must be sent directly to the Board of Examiners for Nursing.

8. The respondent, Sandra Estella Pierce, R.N., is hereby directed to surrender her license number R-25360 and current registration to the Board of Examiners for Nursing at 79 Elm Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106, within five days of receipt of this order.

9. The Board of Examiners for Nursing herewith advises the Department of Health Services of the State of Connecticut of this decision that the registration license of Sandra Estella Pierce, R.N., be suspended in accordance herewith.

Dated at *Hartford*, Connecticut, this *2nd* day
of *August*, 1983.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING

Bette Jane M. Murphy 210
By: ~~BETTY~~ JANE M. MURPHY, R.N.
Chairman