

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING

1984 0327 011 012

IN RE:

Deborah Mellady
Route 207
Lebanon, CT 06249

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

INTRODUCTION

The Board of Examiners for Nursing, (hereafter the "Board"), was presented by the Department of Health Services with a Notice of Hearing and Statement of Charges dated September 20, 1984.

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 October 9, 1984 in the State Armory at 360 Broad Street Hartford, Connecticut.

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

Based on the testimony given and the exhibits offered into evidence at the above hearing, the Board made the following findings of fact:

1. Deborah Mellady, respondent, was at all pertinent times licensed to practice nursing as a practical nurse in Connecticut, with registration number 14759.

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. The respondent from approximately November 1983 until approximately January 1984, (1) diverted an unspecified amount of Demerol from the pediatric wing, and (2) altered and/or removed an unspecified number of proof-of-use sheets while employed as a licensed practical nurse at Windham Community Memorial Hospital.

4. The activities referenced in paragraph three (3) were uncovered by Drug Control Agent Stanley J. Kornacki and Senior Drug Control Agent William Ward, Department of Consumer Protection from January through March 1984.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5. The First Count alleges that the respondent violated provisions of Section 20-99(b) from approximately November 1983 until approximately January 1984 by diverting an unspecified amount of Demerol from the pediatric wing at Windham Community Memorial Hospital where she was employed.

In pertinent part, Section 20-99(b) forbids: ... (2) illegal conduct, incompetence or negligence in carrying out usual nursing functions.

The Board determined that the respondent from approximately November 1983 until approximately January 1984 diverted an unspecified amount of Demerol from the pediatric wing at Windham Community Memorial Hospital where she was employed.

Standard of nursing practice dictate medications are removed from the

medication closet only for administration to a patient in accordance with a physician's order.

Based on the foregoing, the Board concludes that the respondent has violated Section 20-99(b) as specified in the First Count.

6. The Second Count alleges that the respondent violated provisions of Section 20-99(b) from approximately November 1983 until approximately January 1984 by altering and/or removing an unspecified number of proof-of-use sheets at Windham Community Memorial Hospital where she was employed.

In pertinent part, Section 20-99(b) forbids: ... (7) wilful falsification of entries in any hospital, patient or other record pertaining to drugs, the results of which are detrimental to the health of a patient.

The Board determined that the respondent from approximately November 1983 until approximately January 1984 altered and/or removed an unspecified number of proof-of-use sheets while employed as a licensed practical nurse at Windham Community Memorial Hospital.

Standards of practice for medication administration indicate proof-of-use sheets are not to be altered or removed from the designated area.

Based on the foregoing, the Board concludes that the respondent has violated Section 20-99(b) as specified in the Second Count.

ORDER

7. It is the unanimous decision of the Board of Examiners for Nursing that:

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, two (2) years;

- ii. as to the Second Count, one (1) year;
 - iii. The suspension for the first and second counts are to run consecutively for a minimum effective suspension of three (3) years.
- b. The said period of suspension shall commence on January 1, 1985.
 - c. At the end of the three (3) years specified in (a) the respondent may apply for reinstatement by requesting reinstatement in writing and submitting (1) documentation that she has engaged in counseling with a licensed therapist and has been drug free during her period of suspension; (2) drug free status to be confirmed by random drug screens; (3) a summary statement from a licensed therapist within one month of request for reinstatement which documents physical and psychological health necessary to competently practice nursing.

8. The respondent, Deborah Mellady, is hereby directed to surrender her license and current registration to the Board of Examiners for Nursing at 150 Washington Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106 on or before January 1, 1985.

10. The Board of Examiners for Nursing herewith advises the Department of Health Services of the State of Connecticut of this decision.

Dated at *Hartford*, Connecticut, this *20th* day of *December*, 198*4*

BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING

BY: *Bette Jane M. Murphy, RN*
Bette Jane M. Murphy, R.N., Chairman



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

8 June 1989

Deborah Mellady
RR 3 Box 124
Lebanon, CT 06249

RE: Connecticut LPN License No. 014759

Dear Mrs. Mellady:

Your eligibility for reinstatement from suspension of your practical nurse license has been reviewed and the Board of Examiners for Nursing recommend that your license be ~~reinstated~~ as of ~~1988~~, ~~1989~~.

Your original license number has been reassigned to you, and will be issued following routine processing by the Department of Health Services.

Renewal of your practical nurse license is required, by law, annually during the month of your birth following the date of this letter. If the license is not renewed within ninety (90) days of the due date, it will become automatically void. This means that future reinstatement will require re-application.

State law requires you to notify this office within thirty (30) days of ANY change of address whether in or out of this state. Should you have any questions concerning this process contact this Department at 566-4979.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marie T. Hilliard".

Marie T. Hilliard, Ph.D., R.N.
Executive Officer
Board of Examiners for Nursing

MTH: jew
4034/23

cc: John N. Boccaccio, Chief, Licensure & Registration
David J. Pavis, Chief, Public Health Hearing Office
Richard Lynch, Assistant Attorney General
Theresa Wasicki, Clerk, Board of Examiners for Nursing