

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING

Department of Public Health and Addiction Services v.

Catherine Meurou, LPN

License No. 018515

158 Whiting Street

Plainville CT 06062

CASE PETITION NO. 921117-11-028

**MEMORANDUM OF DECISION**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Board of Examiners for Nursing (hereinafter the "Board") was presented by the Department of Public Health and Addiction Services (hereinafter the "Department") with a Statement of Charges dated October 7, 1993. (Department Exhibit 1-1) The Statement of Charges alleged, in one (1) count, violations of certain provisions of Chapter 378 of the General Statutes of Connecticut by Catherine Meurou (hereinafter the "Respondent").

The Board issued a Notice of Hearing dated November 4, 1993. The hearing took place on March 10, 1994 in Room 112, National Guard Armory, Maxim Road, Hartford, Connecticut.

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 and his/her specialized professional knowledge in evaluating the evidence.

**FACTS**

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

1. Catherine Meurou, hereinafter referred to as the Respondent, was issued Licensed Practical Nurse License Number 018515 on December 10, 1979 and was the holder of said license at all times referenced in the Statement of Charges. (Department Exhibit 1-3, 1-4)
2. Pursuant to the General Statutes of Connecticut, Section 4-182(c), the Respondent was provided full opportunity prior to the institution of agency action to show compliance with all the terms for the retention of her license. (Department Exhibit 1-2)
3. The Respondent was aware of the time and location of the hearing. Department Exhibit 1-1 indicates that the Notice of Hearing and Statement of Charges were delivered by certified mail to the Respondent and the Respondent's attorney.
4. The Respondent was present during the hearing and was represented by counsel. (Hearing Transcript, March 10, 1994, pp. 2, 25)
5. The Respondent provided a written answer to the Statement of Charges. (Department Exhibit 1-3)
6. That on or about October 1992 the Respondent was employed as a licensed practical nurse at Cedar Lane Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, Waterbury, Connecticut. (Department Exhibit 1-3 1-4, 1-5, 1-6) (Hearing Transcript, March 10, 1994, pp. 5-12)
7. That on or about October 20, 1992, while working as a licensed practical nurse at Cedar Lane Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, the Respondent was responsible for administering medications to patients Bertha P., William G., Elfrieda D., Beatrice K., Florence W., Clara K., Dorothy J. and Mary R. (Hearing Transcript, March 10, 1994, p. 9)

8. That on or about October 20, 1992, while working as a licensed practical nurse at Cedar Lane Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, the Respondent failed to administer scheduled medications to patients Bertha P., William G., Elfrieda D., Beatrice K., Florence W., Clara K., Dorothy J. and Mary R. (Department Exhibit 1-6) (Hearing Transcript, March 10, 1994, pp. 9-10)
  
9. That on or about October 20, 1992, while working as a licensed practical nurse at Cedar Lane Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, the Respondent made false entries on medication administration records indicating that the scheduled medications which she failed to administer to patients (FACT 8) were administered to the patients. (Department Exhibit 1-5) (Hearing Transcript, March 10, 1994, pp. 13-15)

### DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

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

Catherine Meurou held a valid licensed practical nurse license in the State of Connecticut at all times referenced in the Statement of Charges.

The Notice of Hearing and Statement of Charges sufficiently provided information as mandated by the General Statutes of Connecticut Sections 4-177, 4-182 and 19a-17.

The hearing was held in accordance with Chapters 54 and 368a of the General Statutes of Connecticut as well as 19-2a-1 through 19-2a-30 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. The Notice of Hearing, Statement of Charges and the hearing process provided the Respondent with the opportunity to demonstrate compliance with all lawful requirements for the retention of her license as required by the General Statutes of Connecticut Section 4-182(c).

The FIRST COUNT of the Statement of Charges alleges that during October 1992 while working as a licensed practical nurse at Cedar Lane Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, Waterbury, Connecticut, the Respondent:

- "a. failed to administer medications to the following patients: Bertha P., William G., Elfrieda D., Beatrice K., Florence W., Clara K., Dorothy J. and Mary R.: and
- b. falsified medication records, patients' records and/or other facility records."

The Respondent neither admits or denies these charges. (Answer: Department Exhibit 1-3)  
(Hearing Transcript, March 10, 1994, p. 28)

During the hearing the Respondent testified that she did not intentionally omit giving medications to patients and did not intentionally falsify any medical record. (Hearing Transcript, March 10, 1994, p. 29) Based on this testimony and the record, the Board concludes the Respondent unintentionally failed to administer medications to patients and unintentionally falsified medication records.

The General Statutes of Connecticut, Section 20-99(b) prohibits conduct which fails to conform to the accepted standards of the nursing profession, which includes "... (2) illegal conduct, incompetence or negligence in carrying out usual nursing functions...."

Based on its findings, the Board concludes that the Respondent violated the General Statutes of Connecticut Section 20-99(b)(2) by failing to administer medications to patients and by falsifying medication records as specified in the First Count. Therefore, the Respondent is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Section 19a-17 of the General Statutes of Connecticut.

#### ORDER

Pursuant to its authority under the General Statutes of Connecticut Sections 19a-17 and 20-99, the Board of Examiners for Nursing hereby orders:

1. That for the First Count the Respondent's licensed practical nurse license, No. 018515, is placed on probation for a period of one (1) year.

2. If any of the following conditions of probation are not met, the Respondent's licensed practical nurse license may be immediately revoked:
  - A. The Respondent shall provide a copy of this Memorandum of Decision to any and all employers if employed as a nurse during the probationary period. The Board shall be notified in writing by her employer(s) within thirty (30) days as to receipt of a copy of this Memorandum of Decision.
  - B. Should the Respondent change employment at any time during the probationary period, she shall provide a copy of this Memorandum of Decision to her employer and said employer shall notify the Board in writing, within thirty (30) days, as to receipt of a copy of this Memorandum of Decision.
  - C. The Respondent shall cause monthly employer reports to be submitted to the Board by her immediate supervisor during the entire period of probation. Monthly employer reports are due on the first business day of each month and shall commence with the report due June 1, 1994. Monthly employer reports shall be issued to the Board at the address listed in paragraph I below.
  - D. Monthly employer reports cited in paragraph C above, shall include documentation of the Respondent's ability to safely and competently practice nursing and an evaluation of the Respondent's ability to competently and accurately document the administration of medications.
  - E. During the one (1) year period of probation the Respondent must complete a course of study, the subject matter of which pertains to medication administration and documentation. Said course of study must be approved by the Board prior to commencement.

F. Certification of successful completion of the course cited in E above shall be submitted to the Board, at the address cited in (I) below, directly from the educational institution at which the course was taken or directly from the course instructor.

G. The Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing must be informed in writing prior to any change of employment.

H. The Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing must be informed in writing prior to any change of address.

I. Any correspondence and reports are to be addressed to:

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING  
Department of Public Health and Addiction Services  
150 Washington Street  
Hartford CT 06106

3. Any deviation from the terms of probation without prior written approval by the Board of Examiners for Nursing will constitute a violation of probation which will be cause for an immediate hearing on charges of violating this Order and will subject the Respondent to sanctions under Section 19a-17(a) and (c) of the Connecticut General Statutes including but not limited to, the revocation of her license. Any extension of time or grace period for reporting granted by the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing shall not be a waiver or preclude the Board's right to take action at a later time. The Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing shall not be required to grant future extensions of time or grace periods. Notice of revocation or other disciplinary action shall be sent to her address of record (most current address reported to the Licensure and Renewal Section of the Division of Medical Quality Assurance of the Department of Public Health and Addiction Services or the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing).
4. This Memorandum of Decision becomes effective, and the one (1) year probation period of the Respondent's license shall commence, on May 15, 1994.

The Board of Examiners for Nursing hereby informs the Respondent, Catherine Meurou and the Department of Public Health and Addiction Services of the State of Connecticut of this decision.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 12th day of May, 1994.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING

By Janice Thibodeau

9674Q



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES  
BUREAU OF HEALTH SYSTEM REGULATION

June 12, 1995

Cathy Meurou  
209 Lakeside Boulevard West  
Waterbury CT 06708

RE: Connecticut Licensed Practical Nurse No. 018515

Dear Ms. Meurou:

You have fulfilled the terms of the probation of your license. The probationary status of your licensed practical nurse license have been removed effective May 15, 1995.

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. This is a process of having your credentials re-evaluated.

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 203-566-4979.

Sincerely,

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

MTH:jew  
4290/32

cc: Richard J. Lynch, Assistant Attorney General  
Donna Buntaine Brewer, Chief, Public Health Hearing Office  
Debra Tomassone, Chief, Licensure & Registration  
Joseph J. Gillen, Chief, Applications, Examinations and Licensure  
Nurse Licensure, Applications, Examinations and Licensure