

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

Department of Public Health

Petition No. 2001-0724-011-022

vs.

Lisa Wild, L.P.N. Lic. No. 024058

**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 September 12, 2002. Dept. Exh. 1. The Statement of Charges alleged violations of certain provisions of Chapter 378 of the General Statutes of Connecticut by Lisa Wild (hereinafter "respondent"), which would subject respondent's licensed practical 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 September 18, 2002, the Board ordered, pursuant to its authority under *Conn. Gen. Stat.* § 4-182(c) and §19a-17(c), that respondent's licensed practical 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 September 18, 2002, scheduling a hearing for October 2, 2002. Dept. Exh. 1.

Respondent was provided notice of the hearing and of the charges against her. The Summary Suspension Order, Notice of Hearing and Statement of Charges were served on respondent by a State Marshal on September 21, 2002. Dept. Exh. 1.

The hearing took place on October 2, November 6, and December 18, 2002, in Room 2-A, Legislative Office Building, Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut and, on February 5, 2003, at Hartford Hospital's Newington Campus, 181 Patricia Genova Drive, Newington, Connecticut.

Respondent was not present during the hearing held on October 2, 2002, but did attend all the other hearings without counsel.

Respondent submitted an oral Answer to the Statement of Charges on November 6, 2002. Transcript, December 18, 2002, pp. 10-12.

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 licensed practical nurse license number 024058 on June 3, 1991. Her license expired on February 29, 2000, and was reinstated on July 18, 2000. Respondent was the holder of said license at all times referenced in the Statement of Charges. Dept. Exh.1C; Transcript, 12/18/02, p. 10.
2. From February 27, 2001 to July 12, 2001, respondent was employed as a licensed practical nurse for Staff Mates, a home care agency located in Hebron, Connecticut. Dept. Exh. 1; Transcript 10/2/02, pp. 13, 14, 30; Transcript 12/18/02, p. 10.
3. In July of 2001, while assigned to work at a private residence, respondent conducted a nursing conference without the involvement or knowledge of her superiors at Staff Mates. Dept. Exh. 1; Transcript, 10/2/02, pp. 17, 18, 41; Transcript 12/18/02, pp. 10, 42-43.
4. In July of 2001, while assigned to work at a private residence, respondent counseled her client regarding family matters. Dept. Exh. 1; Transcript, 10/2/02, pp. 18, 43; Transcript 12/18/02, pp. 11, 46, 47, 78.
5. From approximately February of 2001 to July of 2001, while assigned to work at a private residence, respondent smoked at, and brought guests to, the private residence. Dept. Exh. 1; Transcript 10/2/02, pp. 19, 20, 21, 38; Transcript 12/18/02, pp. 43, 44.
6. From approximately February of 2001 to July of 2001, while assigned to work at a private residence, respondent crossed professional boundaries when she became involved in the personal affairs of her client and her client's family. Dept. Exh. 1; Tr. 12/18/02, pp. 40,
7. In July of 2001, while assigned to work at the Sunrise Group Home, respondent signed her name with an "R.N." after it on medical and facility records. Dept. Exh. 1; Transcript, 10/2/02, pp. 17, 24, 35; Transcript 12/18/02, pp. 26-27, 88-89.
8. In July of 2001, while assigned to work at the Sunrise Group Home, respondent failed to sign a controlled substance drug sheet concerning the administration of Phenobarbital. Transcript, 10/2/02, pp. 26, 52; Transcript 12/18/02, p. 12.
9. In July of 2001, while assigned to work at the Sunrise Group Home, respondent was asked not to return because she was agitating one of the residents. Transcript, 10/2/02, p. 26.
9. In or about 2001 and 2002, respondent abused or utilized prescription drugs and alcohol to excess. Resp. Exhs. A,B,C, D, E; Transcript, 12/18/02, pp. 25, 26, 29, 31, 33.

10. Respondent's abuse of drugs and alcohol does, and/or, may affect her practice as a licensed practical nurse.

### ***Conclusions of Law and Discussion***

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

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 Chapters 54 and 368a of the Connecticut General Statutes 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.

**PARAGRAPHS 1, 5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20 and 23** of the Statement of Charges alleges that respondent held a valid practical nurse license in the State of Connecticut at all times referenced in the Charges.

**PARAGRAPHS 2, 5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20 and 23** of the Statement of Charges alleges that at all relevant times, respondent was employed by Staff Mates, a home care agency in Hebron, Connecticut.

**PARAGRAPH 3** of the Statement of Charges alleges that in approximately July 2001, while assigned to work at a private residence, respondent exceeded her scope of practice when she conducted a nursing conference with the mother of her patients.

**PARAGRAPH 6** of the Statement of Charges alleges that in approximately July 2001, while assigned to work at a private residence, respondent crossed professional boundaries when she advised and counseled her client regarding family problems.

**PARAGRAPH 9** of the Statement of Charges alleges that during 2001, while assigned to work at a private residence, respondent conducted herself in an inappropriate manner while on duty.

**PARAGRAPH 12** of the Statement of Charges alleges that in approximately July 2001, while assigned to work at a private residence, respondent removed medication prescribed for the client's daughter from the house and failed to return the medication to her client.

**PARAGRAPH 15** of the Statement of Charges alleges that in approximately July 2001, while assigned to work at the Sunrise Group Home, respondent signed her name with "R.N." following it on medical and/or facility records.

**PARAGRAPH 18** of the Statement of Charges alleges that on approximately July 13, 2001, while assigned to the Sunrise Group Home, respondent committed a documentation error regarding the administration of Phenobarbital.

**PARAGRAPH 21** of the Statement of Charges alleges that in or around July 2001, while assigned to work at the Sunrise Group Home, respondent conducted herself in a manner that agitated clients, and she was asked not to return to the facility.

**PARAGRAPH 24** of the Statement of Charges alleges that in or about 2001 and 2002, respondent abused or utilized to excess drugs and/or alcohol.

**PARAGRAPH 25** of the Statement of Charges alleges that respondent's abuse of drugs and/or alcohol does, and/or may, affect her practice as a licensed practical nurse.

Respondent admits some of these charges and denies others. Transcript, October , pp. 10-12.

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 performing usual nursing functions . . . (5) abuse or excessive use of drugs, including alcohol, narcotics or chemicals . . . (6) fraud or material deception in the course of professional services or activities . . . .

Based on its findings, the Board concludes that respondent's conduct as alleged in Paragraphs 3, 6, 9, 15,18, 21, 24, and 25 of the Statement of Charges is proven by a preponderance of the evidence presented. The Department failed to prove the allegation set forth in Paragraph 12 by a preponderance of the evidence. The Board further concludes that said conduct constitutes grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to *Conn. Gen. Stat.* § 20-99(b)(2), (5), (6) and §19a-17.

Based on its findings, the Board concludes that respondent's conduct as alleged in the Statement of Charges is proven by a preponderance of the evidence presented. Therefore, respondent's licensed practical nurse license is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to *Conn. Gen. Stat.* § 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:

1. That for Paragraphs 3, 6, 9, 15, 18, 21, 24, and 25 of the Statement of Charges, respondent's licensed practical nurse license, number 024058, is placed on probation for a period of four (4) years.

2. If any of the following conditions of probation are not met, respondent's licensed practical nurse license may be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to § 19a-17 of the General Statutes of Connecticut.

- A. During the period of probation the Board shall pre-approve respondent's employment and/or change of employment within the nursing profession.
- B. During the period of probation respondent shall not be employed as a licensed practical nurse for a personnel provider service, assisted living services agency, homemaker-home health agency, or home health care agency, and shall not be self-employed as a licensed practical nurse.
- C. During the period of probation, respondent shall not be employed in any nursing position without direct supervision by a registered nurse.
- D. 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 any employer(s), within thirty (30) days of the commencement of employment, as to receipt of a copy of this Memorandum of Decision.
- E. If employed as a nurse, respondent shall cause monthly employer reports to be submitted to the Board by her immediate supervisor during the entire probationary period.
- F. The employer reports cited in Paragraph E above shall include documentation of respondent's ability to safely and competently practice nursing. Employer reports shall be submitted directly to the Board at the address cited in Paragraph R below.
- G. Should respondent's employment as a nurse be involuntarily terminated, respondent and/or her employer shall notify the Board, within seventy-two (72) hours, of such termination.
- H. If respondent pursues further training in any subject area that is regulated by the Department, respondent shall provide a copy of this Memorandum of Decision to the educational institution or, if not an institution, to respondent's instructor. Such institution or instructor shall notify the Department in writing as to receipt of a copy of this Memorandum of Decision within fifteen (15) days of receipt. Said

notification shall be submitted directly to the Department at the address cited in Paragraph R below.

- I. At her expense, respondent shall engage in therapy and counseling for chemical dependency with a licensed or certified therapist, approved by the Board and the Department, during the entire period of probation.
- J. Respondent shall provide a copy of this Memorandum of Decision to her therapist. The Board shall be notified in writing by her therapist, within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Decision, as to receipt of a copy of this Memorandum of Decision.
- K. Respondent shall cause monthly evaluation reports to be submitted to the Board by her therapist during the entire probationary period.
- L. The therapist reports cited in Paragraph K above shall include documentation of dates of treatment, and an evaluation of respondent's progress, including alcohol and drug free status, and ability to safely and competently practice nursing. Therapist reports shall be submitted directly to the Board at the address cited in Paragraph R below.
- M. At her expense, respondent shall be responsible for submitting to observed random chain of custody urine screens for alcohol and drugs for the entire probationary period, at a testing facility approved by the Board, after consultation with the Department, as ordered by her therapist, and/or personal physician, and/or employer. Alcohol/drug screening may also be ordered by the Board to ensure compliance with this Order. Random alcohol/drug screens shall be legally defensible in that specimen donor and chain of custody can be identified throughout the screening process.
  - (1) Respondent shall be responsible for notifying the laboratory, her therapist, the Board, the Department and her prescribing practitioner of any drug(s) she is taking. For any prescription of a controlled substance(s) for more than two consecutive weeks, the respondent shall cause the provider prescribing the controlled substance(s) to submit quarterly reports to the Board and the Department until such time as the controlled substance(s) are no longer prescribed. The reports shall include the following:
    - a. A list of controlled substances prescribed by this provider for the respondent;
    - b. A list of controlled substance(s) prescribed by other providers;

- c. An evaluation of the respondent's need for the controlled substance; and,
- d. An assessment of the respondent's continued need for the controlled substance(s).

- (2) There must be at least two (2) such random alcohol/drug screen monthly during the entire probationary period.
- (3) Random alcohol/drug screens shall be negative for the presence of alcohol and drugs. All positive results shall be confirmed by the Gas Chromatograph Mass Spectrometer (GC/MS) testing method. Chain of custody documentation must accompany all laboratory reports and/or the laboratory reports must indicate that chain of custody procedures have been followed.
- (4) Random alcohol/drug screens must include testing for the following substances:

Amphetamines	Methadone
Barbiturates	Methaqualone
Benzodiazepines	Opiates (Metabolites)
Cannabinoids (THC Metabolites)	Phencyclidine (PCP)
Cocaine	Propoxyphene
Meperidine (Demerol)	Ethanol (alcohol)

- (5) Laboratory reports of random alcohol and drug screens shall be submitted directly to the Board and the Department, at the address cited in Paragraph R below, by respondent's therapist, personal physician or the testing laboratory.
- N. Respondent shall not obtain for personal use alcohol or any drug that has not been prescribed for her, for a legitimate purpose, by a licensed health care practitioner authorized to prescribe medications. Respondent shall not abuse and/or excessively use any drugs that are prescribed for a legitimate medical purpose.
  - O. Respondent is hereby advised that the ingestion of poppy seeds may produce a positive drug screen result indicating the presence of opiates/morphine and that the ingestion of mouthwash may produce a positive result indicating the presence of alcohol. For that reason, any food substance containing poppy seeds, and mouthwash should be avoided during the probationary period. In the event that a drug/alcohol screen is positive for opiates/morphine and/or alcohol, the ingestion of poppy seeds and/or mouthwash shall not constitute a defense to such positive screen.
  - P. The Board must be informed in writing prior to any change of employment
  - Q. The Board must be informed in writing prior to any change of address.

R. All correspondence and reports are to be addressed to:

**Bonnie Pinkerton, RN, Nurse Consultant**  
**Department of Public Health**  
**Division of Health Systems Regulation**  
**Board of Examiners For Nursing**  
410 Capitol Avenue, MS #12HSR  
P. O. Box 340308  
Hartford CT 06134-0308

4. Any deviation from the terms of probation, without prior written approval by the Board, shall constitute a violation of probation, which will be cause for an immediate hearing on charges of violating this Order. Any finding that respondent has violated this Order will subject respondent to sanctions under *Conn. Gen. Stat.* § 19a-17(a) and (c), including but not limited to, the revocation of her license. Any extension of time or grace period for reporting granted by the Board shall not be a waiver or preclude the Board's right to take subsequent action. The Board shall not be required to grant future extensions of time or grace periods. Notice of revocation or other disciplinary action shall be sent to respondent's address of record (most current address reported to the Office of Practitioner Licensing and Certification of the Department of Public Health or the Board).
5. This Memorandum of Decision becomes effective, and the four (4) year probation of licensed practical nurse license 024058 shall commence, on August 1, 2003.

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

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut this 16 day of July, 2003.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING

By Nancy S. Buford