

**BEFORE THE OREGON
STATE BOARD OF NURSING**

In the Matter of) **STIPULATED ORDER FOR**
Sara Kauffman, NP) **REPRIMAND OF LICENSE**
) **WITH CONDITIONS**
License No. 082008253N3, 200150139NP,) **Reference No. 14-00756**
082008253RN

The Oregon State Board of Nursing (Board) is the state agency responsible for licensing, regulating and disciplining certain health care providers, including Nurse Practitioners. Sara Kauffman was issued an Adult Nurse Practitioner Certificate by the Board on January 18, 1996 and a Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate by the Board on October 24, 2001.

On November 26, 2013, the Board received a complaint alleging that Licensee mismanaged chronic pain patients while practicing at a local clinic. The Board opened an investigation into the matter.

Licensee had practiced as a Family Nurse Practitioner at the clinic since 1996. Upon review of medical records, it was noted that Licensee had routinely prescribed opioids without comprehensive assessments and without trials of other treatment modalities. It was also noted that Licensee did not routinely monitor her patients for misuse of their prescribed opioids.

Five of the five records submitted by the complainant, failed to meet the standard for treatment of chronic pain patients. Pharmacy records, which tracked controlled substances prescribed by Licensee since 2011, showed that she had prescribed to approximately 248 patients during this time. Board staff identified approximately 17 with questionable medications/dosages; five were the originally named patients. Board staff reviewed the medical records of the remaining 12 patients. Of these, two failed to meet the standard for treatment of chronic pain patients.

During the course of the investigation, the personnel records from several of Licensee's places of employment were reviewed. One employer, where Licensee had practiced since 2006, had counseled Licensee multiple times for what was perceived as aggressive communication with other members of the healthcare team, patients and patient family members.

By the above actions, Licensee is subject to discipline pursuant to ORS 678.111 (1) (f) and OAR 851-045-0070 (1) (a) and (3) (g), which provide as follows:

ORS 678.111 Causes for denial, revocation or suspension of license or probation, reprimand or censure of licensee.

In the manner prescribed in ORS chapter 183 for a contested case:

(1) Issuance of the license to practice nursing, whether by examination or by indorsement, of any person may be refused or the license may be revoked or suspended or the

licensee may be placed on probation for a period specified by the Oregon State Board of Nursing and subject to such condition as the board may impose or may be issued a limited license or may be reprimanded or censured by the board, for any of the following causes:

(f) Conduct derogatory to the standards of nursing.

OAR 851-045-0070

Nurses, regardless of role, whose behavior fails to conform to the legal standard and accepted standards of the nursing profession, or who may adversely affect the health, safety, and welfare of the public, may be found guilty of conduct derogatory to the standards of nursing. Such conduct shall include, but is not limited to, the following:

(1) Conduct related to the client's safety and integrity:

(a) Developing, modifying, or implementing standards of nursing practice/care which jeopardize patient safety.

(3) Conduct related to communication:

(g) Failing to maintain client records in a timely manner which accurately reflects management of client care, including failure to make a late entry within a reasonable time period.

Licensee wishes to cooperate with the Board in this matter. Therefore, the following will be proposed to the Oregon State Board of Nursing and is agreed to by Licensee:

That the Nurse Practitioner Certificate of Sara Kauffman be reprimanded with the condition that she completes an in-person, Board approved Anger Management Course and completes two Board approved courses; one on the subject of Professional Boundaries and one on the subject of Primary Care Management of Acute and Chronic Pain.

Licensee understands that the conduct resulting in the violations of law described in this Order are considered by the Board to be of a grave nature and, if continued, constitutes a serious danger to public health and safety.

Licensee understands that in the event she engages in future conduct resulting in violations of law or the Nurse Practice Act, the Board may take further disciplinary action against her license, up to and including revocation of her license to practice as a Nurse Practitioner.

Licensee understands that this Order will be submitted to the Board of Nursing for its approval and is subject to the Board's confirmation.

Licensee understands that by signing this Stipulated Order, she waives the right to an administrative hearing under ORS 183.310 to 183.540, and to any judicial review or appeal thereof. Licensee acknowledges that no promises, representations, duress or coercion have been used to induce her to sign this Order.

Licensee understands that this Order is a document of public record.

Licensee has read this Stipulated Order, understands this Order completely, and freely signs this Stipulated Order for Reprimand.

Sara Kauffman, NP

Date

ORDER

IT IS SO ORDERED:

BOARD OF NURSING FOR THE STATE OF OREGON

Gary Hickmann, RN
Board President

Date