

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING
OF THE STATE OF OREGON**

In the Matter of:)	STIPULATION FOR REPRIMAND
)	OF REGISTERED NURSE LICENSE
)	AND
Barbara J Lawson, RN, WHCNP)	NURSE PRACTITIONER (NP-PP)
License No. 079044158RN)	CERTIFICATE
079044158N7)	Case No. 11-033
)	

Ms. Lawson is a Registered Nurse (RN) who graduated in 1974 from The Intercollegiate Center for Nursing with a bachelor's degree in Nursing. Ms. Lawson obtained her Nurse Practitioner certificate in Nursing from UCLA Harbor General Hospital in 1979. Ms. Lawson was issued her RN license by endorsement and WHCNP certificate in the State of Oregon on November 7, 1979.

On July 7 and 23, 2010, the Board opened two investigations regarding concerns that Licensee had inappropriately prescribed excessive amounts of medications to two patients. The medications included tramadol, hydrocodone and diazepam. One of the patients died from a methadone overdose. The other patient had no bad outcome and had a long chronic history of narcotic use.

Autopsy results show that complainant's mother did die from a methadone overdose. The report states that the complainant's mother had multiple medical issues as well as a chronic history of overmedicating herself on many occasions. The report stated that the "subject has been found overmedicated and in somulescent states many times."

In a personal interview with Board staff, Licensee said that if the patients had taken their medications according to the provisions of their contracts, in the way she prescribed, they would not have had bad outcomes.

During a personal interview with Board staff on September 29, 2010, Licensee said that the clinic provided care for patients with chronic pain issues. The clinic practitioners routinely prescribed "liberal" amounts of narcotics. Licensee said that many of the patients transferred from various clinics including Eastern Oregon to get easier access to narcotics.

Licensee said that she was uncomfortable with the over-prescribing of narcotics and poor monitoring of the patients, by the nurse practitioner/owner. The owner provided oversight of the clinic and directed the care by instituting her policies and procedures.

Licensee said that she tried to be as conservative as possible but was not always successful given the "culture" of the clinic. Licensee said that on several occasions her prescribing amount was "overruled" by the owner and the patient was allowed to get larger amounts of narcotics. Licensee said that with time, more of the chronic pain patients were asking to see the owner for their refills and not the Licensee.

The above conduct is a violation of the provisions of ORS 678.111 (1) (f) (g), 851-045-0015 and (4) (b) and 851-056-0016 (f).

(1) Issuance of a license to practice nursing, whether by examination or by endorsement, 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.

(g) Violation of any provision of ORS 678.010 to 678.445 or rules adopted thereunder.

OAR 851-045-0015

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:

(4) Conduct related to achieving and maintaining clinical competency

(b) Failing to conform to the essential standards of acceptable and prevailing nursing practice. Actual injury need not be established.

OAR 851-056-0024

The Board may deny, suspend or revoke the authority to write prescriptions and/or dispense drugs for the causes identified in ORS 678.111(1) or with proof that the authority has been abused.

(f) Prescribing, dispensing, administering, or distributing drugs in an unsafe or unlawful manner or without adequate instructions to the client according acceptable and prevailing standards or practice.

Licensee wishes to cooperate with the Board in resolving the present disciplinary problems. Therefore, the following will be proposed to the Board and is agreed to by Licensee:

That the Registered Nurse license and the Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner certificate of Ms. Lawson be Reprimanded.

Licensee understands that the conduct resulting in the violations of law described in this Stipulation are considered by the Board to be serious in nature.

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 as a Registered Nurse.

Licensee understands this Stipulation will be submitted to the Board of Nursing at their next scheduled meeting for approval and is subject to the Board's adoption and confirmation. Licensee understands that if approved, the Board will issue a Final Order adopting this Stipulation.

Licensee understands that, by entering into this stipulation, she waives any and all rights to notice and an administrative hearing under ORS 183.310 to 183.550, and to appeal or otherwise challenge this Stipulation or the Final Order adopting it.

Licensee understands that this Stipulation will become a public record at such time as the Board issues an order adopting it.

Licensee states no promises, representations, duress or coercion have been used to induce her to sign this Stipulation.

Licensee has fully read this Stipulation and understands it completely

Dated this _____ day of October, 2010

[SIGNATURE & DATED COPY ON FILE IN BOARD OFFICE]

Barbara J Lawson, RN, NP

OREGON STATE BOARD OF NURSING

[SIGNATURES & DATED COPY ON FILE IN BOARD OFFICE]

Marilyn L Hudson, RN, MSN, CNS, FRE
Investigations Manager
Investigation Department

Date

Nisha Sexton, RN, MN
Nurse Investigator
Investigation Department

Date