

BEFORE THE INDIANA STATE  
BOARD OF NURSING  
CAUSE NUMBER: 2004 NB 0209

STATE OF INDIANA, )  
)  
Petitioner, )  
)  
v. )  
)  
LAURA MARIE WALTER, R.N., )  
LICENSE NUMBER:28134452A, )  
)  
Respondent. )

FILED

MAY 09 2005

HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
BUREAU

**FINDINGS OF FACT AND ORDER**

The Indiana State Board of Nursing ("Board"), held an administrative hearing on March 17, 2005 in the Auditorium of the Conference Center, Indiana Government Center South 302 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, concerning a disciplinary complaint filed against Laura Marie Walter, R.N. ("Respondent") on December 22, 2004.

The State of Indiana was represented by Deputy Attorney General Shelley M. Johnson. The Respondent failed to appear in person or by counsel.

The Board, after considering the evidence presented and taking official notice of its file in this matter, by a vote of 6-0-0 finds the Respondent in DEFAULT. The Board by a vote of 6-0-0, issues the following Findings of Fact and Order:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Respondent is a licensed registered nurse in the State of Indiana holding license number 28134452A.
2. Respondent's address listed with the Health Professions Bureau is 875 Jordan Circle, Schererville, Indiana 46357.
3. A Complaint was filed by the State of Indiana against the Respondent in this

matter on or about December 22, 2004.

4. On January 6, 2005, the Health Professions Bureau sent a notice to Respondent at her last reported address, informing Respondent of the date, time and place of the final hearing on the State's Complaint scheduled for January 20, 2005. The notice was returned unclaimed.

5. Pursuant to Indiana Code § 4-21.5-3-20, Respondent was provided adequate notice of the final hearing date and failed to appear for the scheduled hearing on January 20, 2005.

6. On February 23, 2005, the Board issued a Notice of Proposed Default Order. That Notice was mailed by certified mail to the Respondent at her last known address. Said notice was signed for by someone at her address on February 28, 2005.

7. Respondent failed to respond to the Board's Notice of Proposed Default Order within seven (7) days as required by Indiana Code § 4-21.5-3-24.

8. Respondent worked as a registered nurse at St. Catherine's Hospital at 4321 Fir Street, East Chicago, Indiana 46312 from May 5, 2003 until June 16, 2003. Respondent was terminated for diversion of Morphine from St. Catherine's Hospital.

9. On or about June 11, 2003, Respondent submitted to an initial intake with the Indiana State Nurses Assistance Program ("ISNAP").

10. On or about July 18, 2003, Respondent was reported to the Indiana Office of the Attorney General by her employer and referred to ISNAP. Respondent was evaluated and diagnosed with polysubstance dependency and bipolar disorder by the Methodist Rehab Center, Southlake Campus in Merrillville, Indiana.

11. On or about July 24, 2003, Respondent signed a Recovery Monitoring Agreement with the ISNAP Program.

12. Respondent had the following specific areas of non-compliance in 2004:

- a. Respondent failed to enroll in Compass Vision, Inc. for Urinary Drug Screens. Her last reported urine drug screen was August 17, 2004.
- b. Respondent failed to submit monthly self reports for July, August and September of 2004,
- c. Respondent failed to submit AA/NA reports for July, August and September 2004;
- d. Respondent failed to submit any sponsor reports;
- e. Respondent failed to submit any Addictionist reports since November, 2003.

13. Respondent's case with ISNAP was closed on or about October 26, 2004 for non compliance with the program.

14. On or about November 18, 2004, Respondent's Indiana nursing license was Summarily Suspended after testimony was given by ISNAP that Respondent's case dynamics were consistent with an imminent risk to the public safety.

#### **ULTIMATE FINDINGS OF FACT**

The conduct described above constitutes a violation of Indiana Code § 25-1-9-4(a)(4)(D) in that the practitioner has continued to practice although the practitioner has become unfit to practice due to addiction to, abuse of or severe dependency upon alcohol or other drugs that endangers the public by impairing a practitioner's ability to practice safely.

#### **ORDER**

Based upon the above Findings of Fact, the Board issues the following Order:

1. Respondent's Indiana Registered Nurse license is placed upon **INDEFINITE SUSPENSION**. Respondent may not seek reinstatement of her Indiana nursing

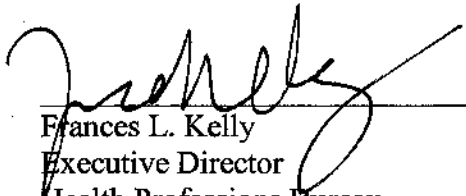
license until she has signed a Recovery Monitoring Agreement ("RMA") with the Indiana State Nurses Assistance Program ("ISNAP") and she has complied with her contract for a period of at least three (3) months.

2. It is further ORDERED that Respondent pay a fine in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) made payable to the Health Professions Bureau within ninety (90) days of the date of execution of this Order.
3. Respondent shall immediately surrender her pocket license and wall license to the Board, in care of the Health Professions Bureau, 402 West Washington Street, Room W066, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

SO ORDERED, this 9 day of May, 2005.

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:

  
Frances L. Kelly  
Executive Director  
Health Professions Bureau

Copies to:

Laura Marie Walter, R.N.  
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Scherverville, IN 46357  
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RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

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