

Unauthorized Practice: Board Of Nursing Suspends LPN's License.

A licensed practical nurse's license was suspended for six months following a complaint that she falsified a telephone order for medication, administered medication without a valid order and failed to document the need for medication administered to a patient.

The Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing conditioned restoration of her license after six months upon completion of various continuing education programs and a comprehensive mental health examination.

Medication Was Given Before An Order Was Obtained

Assigned by a staffing agency to work in a nursing home, the LPN phoned the nurse practitioner to discuss the recommendations she had just received from the hospice nurse concerning a certain patient's pain management regimen.

When the nurse practitioner told her she would not go along with the hospice nurse's suggestions, the LPN revealed she had already gone ahead and given a dose of methadone. In fact, she had also already transcribed an order into the chart from the nurse practitioner for the methadone.

There is no proof that racial discrimination had anything to do with the Board's decision.

SUPREME COURT OF
MASSACHUSETTS
January 21, 2011

The Supreme Court of Massachusetts saw solid evidence that the LPN committed the acts she was accused of and ruled that those acts raised genuine questions about her ability to practice safely and effectively as a nurse.

The Court found no evidence to validate the allegations of racial discrimination the LPN had raised in her response to the Board's disciplinary measures. MacLean v. Bd. of Registration in Nursing, __ N.E. 2d __, 2011 WL 172761 (Mass., January 21, 2011).