

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
HEALTH SERVICES REGULATION  
BOARD OF NURSE REGISTRATION  
AND NURSING EDUCATION**

**vs.**

**DAVID LAPOINTE, RN (RN39167)**

**ORDER**

Pursuant to Section 5-34-25 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, 2004 Reenactment, a complaint was filed with the Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education (hereinafter referred to as "Board") charging David LaPointe, RN, Respondent, with violation of Chapter 5-34 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, 2004 Reenactment.

After consideration by the Investigating Subcommittee of the Board, the following constitutes the Findings of Fact with respect to the professional performance of the Respondent.

1. Respondent is a registered nurse and licensed to practice nursing in the State of Rhode Island.
2. That all pertinent times Respondent was employed through a staffing agency Aureus Medical Group, and on duty at Kent Memorial Hospital, Warwick, Rhode Island.
3. That on various dates in February 2005 Respondent did withdraw excessive amounts of narcotics from pyxis and that chart audit indicated Respondent's pain assessments often indicated "high levels of pain" which was not consistent with assessments performed by other nurses. That Respondent failed to follow hospital policy in regard to writing verbal orders from physicians for increase in narcotics.

That the conduct described in paragraph three (3) above constitutes unprofessional conduct as defined in Section 5-34-24 (6) (v) in that Respondent's actions fail to conform to the standards established by the nursing profession.

Based upon the foregoing, the Board hereby enters the following Order:

1. That the registered nurse license issued to the Respondent is hereby Suspended effective November 14, 2005.
2. That at the time Respondent seeks reinstatement of his registered nurse license, he shall submit documentation to the Board evidencing that he is capable and competent to engage in the practice of nursing.
3. That this Order shall remain in full force and effect pending further Order of the Board.

Entered as an Order of the Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education at a meeting held on November 14, 2005.

Date: Nov 14, 2005

Sharon K. Smith  
President, Board of Nurse Registration  
and Nursing Education