

REPRIMAND WITH CONSENT
GWEN HOCHHEIMER
Halifax, N. S.
CLPNNS, Reg. #9523



On June 23, 2003, the Complaints Committee of the CLPNNS (College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia) ordered that pursuant to Section 24 (1) (c) (v) of the Licensed Practical Nurses Regulations and with Ms. Hochheimer's consent, Ms. Hochheimer be issued a reprimand for professional misconduct.

In a letter of complaint dated March 12, 2003, the complainant alleged that Ms. Hochheimer failed to report incidents of resident mishandling in a timely manner and that she provided false information concerning a further incident of resident mishandling. At the time of the alleged incidents Ms. Hochheimer was employed as a LPN in a Long Term Care facility.

Reasons for Reprimand

Allegation 1

The Complaints Committee found that Allegation I was proven and therefore ordered a reprimand with consent for; failure to report incidents involving resident mishandling at various times. As a result of these findings and her admission the Committee has found that she breached the following standards:

Standard 1 – Professional Accountability and Responsibility

- failed to practice within clinical standards as defined by employers through policies and procedures
- failed to demonstrate the basic values and beliefs of the profession through example and behavior
- failed to promote the role of the Licensed Practical Nurse in a positive manner
- failed to follow legal requirements for the documentation of care
- failed to promote ethical behavior and ensure unethical practices are reported
- failed to take a leadership role as appropriate to ensure the delivery of safe nursing care

Standard 3 – Supportive Care and Advocacy

- failed to utilize judgement in all activities related to patient care

Standard 5 – Collaboration and Communication

- failed to develop positive working relationships with other members of the health care team
- failed to report significant observations
- failed to ensure continuity of care through the documentation of significant data

Allegation 2

The second allegation alleged providing false information concerning resident mishandling. The Committee found that all documentary evidence showed that the respondent was not present at the time of this alleged incident. As a result of these findings the Committee found that the allegation was proven and that Ms. Hochheimer breached the following standards.

Standard 1

- failed to accept accountability for her own practice and actions
- failed to comply with the Code of Ethics, the Act and Regulations

Standard 5

- failed to demonstrate a professional manner in all communications with patients, staff and other members of the health care team.

The Committee found that Ms. Hochheimer's action constituted professional misconduct and ordered a reprimand with consent.

On October 10, 2003 Ms. Hochheimer consented to the reprimand.