

1 **BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**
2 **OF THE STATE OF NEVADA**

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4
5 **In the Matter of Charges and Complaint**

Case No. 23-24104-1

6 **Against:**

FILED

7 **LORA LEIGH WATSON, RRT,**

MAR 22 2023

8 **Respondent.**

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF
MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: 

9
10 **COMPLAINT**

11 The Investigative Committee¹ (IC) of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners
12 (Board), by and through Deonne E. Contine, General Counsel and attorney for the IC, having a
13 reasonable basis to believe that Lora Leigh Watson, RRT (Respondent) violated the provisions of
14 Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 630 and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) Chapter 630
15 (collectively, the Medical Practice Act), hereby issues its Complaint, stating the IC's charges and
16 allegations as follows:

17 1. Respondent was at all times relative to this Complaint a respiratory therapist holding
18 an active license to practice respiratory therapy in the State of Nevada (License No. RC137)
19 Respondent was originally licensed by the Board on November 27, 2001.

20 2. On November 27, 2020, Ms. Watson reported her third DUI arrest to the Board and
21 subsequently moved to the State of Kentucky.

22 3. On September 22, 2021, the IC issued an Order for Participation in a Drug and
23 Alcohol Monitoring Program and Compliance with Terms of Contract for Ms. Watson to comply
24 with a five (5) year program of counseling and random drug screens at an approved facility in
25 Kentucky.

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28 ¹ The Investigative Committee of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners, at the time this formal
Complaint was authorized for filing, was composed of Board members Victor M. Muro, M.D., Chair, Chowdhury H.
Ahsan, M.D., Ph.D., FACC, and Ms. Pamela J. Beal.

1 4. On October 21, 2021, Ms. Watson entered into an agreement to participate in a
2 program administered by the Kentucky Professional Recovery Network (KYPRN) which is in
3 effect until October 21, 2026.

4 5. As part of the program administered by KYPRN, Ms. Watson agreed to abstain
5 from any drugs and alcohol.

6 6. On February 23, 2022, KYPRN notified the Board that Ms. Watson tested positive
7 for alcohol metabolites from a blood draw on February 10, 2022.

8 7. Ms. Watson believed that she had obtained a false positive and selected for a
9 follow up blood test on or around February 24, 2022.

10 8. On March 11, 2022, KYPRN notified the Board that Ms. Watson tested positive for
11 alcohol metabolites from the February 24, 2022, blood draw.

12 9. On January 24, 2023, KYPRN notified the Board that Ms. Watson tested positive
13 for alcohol metabolites. KYPRN indicated that the draw was taken from Ms. Watson on
14 January 12, 2023.

15 10. Ms. Watson was informed of the positive result in an email exchange between her
16 and KYPRN. Ms. Watson continues to deny any alcohol consumption.

17 11. KYPRN has informed the Board that the blood test is considered a confirmation for
18 exposure to and metabolism of beverage alcohol.

19 12. Pursuant to NAC 630.540, a practitioner of respiratory care is subject to discipline or
20 denial of licensure by the Board if, after notice and hearing in accordance with NAC Chapter 630, the
21 Board finds that the practitioner of respiratory care:

22 1. Willfully and intentionally made a false or fraudulent
23 statement or submitted a forged or false document in applying
24 for a license or renewing a license.

25 4. Disobeyed any order of the Board or an investigative
26 committee of the Board or violated a provision of this chapter.

27 5. Is not competent to provide respiratory care services.

28 6. Lost his or her certification by the National Board for
Respiratory Care or its successor organization.

 7. Failed to notify the Board of loss of certification by the
National Board for Respiratory Care or its successor
organization.

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9. Rendered respiratory care to a patient while under the influence of alcohol or any controlled substance or in any impaired mental or physical condition.

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23. Violated any provision that would subject a practitioner of medicine to discipline pursuant to NRS 630.301 to 630.3065, inclusive, or NAC 630.230.

13. Based on the foregoing, on February 23, 2023, the IC issued an Order of Summary Suspension alleging that that the health, safety and welfare of the public was at imminent risk of harm if Respondent was permitted to continue practicing, and that an immediate summary suspension of Respondent’s license in the State of Nevada was necessary for the protection of the public. NRS 630.326(1).

COUNT I

NRS 630.306(1)(a) - Inability to Practice Respiratory Therapy With Reasonable Skill and Safety

14. NAC 630.540(23) provides that violating any provision that would subject a practitioner of medicine to discipline pursuant to NRS 630.301 to 630.3065, inclusive, or NAC 630.230, is grounds for disciplinary action against a respiratory therapist.

15. NRS 630.306(1)(a) provides that the inability to practice with reasonable skill and safety because of illness, a mental or physical condition or the use of alcohol, drugs, narcotics or any other substance is grounds for initiating disciplinary action.

16. Respondent is unable to practice respiratory therapy with reasonable skill and safety because of a mental or physical condition and the use of alcohol, drugs, narcotics and other substances because she tested positive for alcohol metabolites on three (3) separate occasions in violation of her agreement with KYPRN to refrain from consuming alcohol.

17. By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners as provided in NAC 630.555 and NRS 630.352.

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COUNT II

**NRS 630.3065(2)(a) - Failing to Comply with a Lawful Order of the
Investigative Committee**

18. All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

19. NRS 630.3065(2)(a) provides that knowingly or willfully failing to comply with an order of a committee designated by the Board to investigate a complaint against a physician, i.e., the IC, is grounds for initiating disciplinary action.

20. Respondent failed to comply with the IC's Order dated September 22, 2021 when she failed to comply with her agreement with KYPRN.

21. By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners as provided in NRS 630.352.

WHEREFORE, the Investigative Committee prays:

1. That the Board give Respondent notice of the charges herein against her and give her notice that she may file an answer to the Complaint herein as set forth in NRS 630.339(2) within twenty (20) days of service of the Complaint;

2. That the Board set a time and place for a formal hearing after holding an Early Case Conference pursuant to NRS 630.339(3);

3. That the Board determine what sanctions to impose if it determines there has been a violation or violations of the Medical Practice Act committed by Respondent;

4. That the Board award fees and costs for the investigation and prosecution of this case as outlined in NRS 622.400;

5. That the Board make, issue and serve on Respondent its findings of fact, conclusions of law and order, in writing, that includes the sanctions imposed; and

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6. That the Board take such other and further action as may be just and proper in these premises.

DATED this 22 day of March, 2023.

INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: Deonne E. Contine

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