

**State of Vermont
Secretary of State
Office of Professional Regulation
Board of Nursing**

**In re: LAUREN FIELDEN
Docket No. 2025-200
License No. 025.0086845**

**Appearances: For the State: George H. Hasselback, Esq.
For the Respondent: did not appear**

**Board Members Participating:
William "Jamie" Floyd, RN
Jennifer Lyon, RN
Deborah Belcher, Public Member
Daniel Coane, Public Member
Jill Neary, LPN
Melissa Loisel, LNA
Margaret Young, APRN**

Presiding Officer: George K. Belcher

Exhibits Admitted: none

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER

This matter came before the Board of Nursing. The hearing was held electronically on August 10, 2026, with the Attorney for the State, the witnesses, and the Board members all participating by telephone, in person, or via electronic means pursuant to the Office of Professional Regulation Rules. The Respondent did not appear and was not represented.

Findings of Fact

Based on the evidence presented at the hearing and the arguments of counsel, the Vermont Board finds as follows:

1. Specification of Charges was filed against the Respondent on December 19, 2025, alleging professional violations. The Respondent filed an Answer dated January 11, 2026, denying most of the allegations.
2. Notice of the hearing was given to the Respondent by regular mail, email and certified mail (return-receipt requested). The email did not "bounce back" and the regular mail was not returned as undelivered. The return receipt from the certified mail had not been received by OPR as of the date of the hearing. In addition, notice of the hearing date was given to the Respondent in a pre-hearing

conference order dated May 29, 2026. Although the Answer filed by the Respondent disputed many factual allegations, the Respondent did not appear at the merits hearing and did not offer factual testimony or evidence to respond to the Specification of Charges.

3. The Board finds that the Respondent, on June 12, 2025, approached another staff person, Paige Wilson, RN, who was managing a medication cart at a nursing facility. The Respondent took a number of Wellbutrin tablets which were prescribed to a patient (but not to the Respondent). Nurse Wilson testified at the hearing, and the Board finds, that the Respondent "popped out" about 10-15 Wellbutrin tablets from a packet of a prescription for a patient and said, "this should get me through". The Respondent then took the tablets. The incident was reported to the charge nurse.
4. There were enough tablets left in the packet for the patient to receive the daily dose that day, but when Nurse Paige returned to the cart at a later shift, the drugs had not been replaced, and the patient had to go without her Wellbutrin medication. Wellbutrin is an anti-depressant medication.
5. The State investigator, Shawn McGarvin, provided testimony to the Board supporting the allegations contained in the Specification of Charges. His testimony established that he interviewed the Respondent on August 12, 2025. The Respondent admitted to him that on one occasion about 6-12 months before the interview the Respondent had "borrowed" two (2) 150 mg. Wellbutrin tablets from the medication cart at the facility. She denied having taken any medications on June 12, 2025. She told the Investigator that she had a prescription for Wellbutrin, but she did not provide him with any tangible evidence of that prescription.
6. The Investigator did a search of the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System and learned that the Respondent had had a prescription for lisdexamfetamine, 60 mg., but that this was a prescription for treatment of ADHD and the drug is not an anti-depressant.

Conclusions of Law

1. Based upon the evidence presented, the above facts were proven by a preponderance of the evidence. The evidence supported the findings of the Board, which findings were made upon motion and voted unanimously on the record, that the Respondent violated the following sections of Vermont Law.
 - a. Violation One: 26 VSA Sec. 1582(a)(2) **Diverting or attempting to divert drugs or equipment or supplies for unauthorized use.** Here the testimony of RN Wilson, and the admissions of the Respondent made to Investigator McGarvin, established that the Respondent diverted medication intended for a patient to her own use without authority.
 - b. Violation Two: 26 VSA Sec. 1582(a)(3) **Engaging in Conduct of a Character Likely to Deceive, Defraud or Harm the Public.** Here, the Respondent departed from standard nursing practice by using medications which were prescribed for patient's use with the consequence that the patient missed receiving the medication prescribed for that patient.

Order

After due consideration, the Board unanimously, indefinitely suspends the nursing license of the Respondent upon the following terms:

- A. The Board of Nursing hereby INDEFINITELY SUSPENDS Respondent's license to practice as a Registered Nurse beginning on the date of entry of this order. Respondent must petition for reinstatement if she wishes to reinstate her license. No sooner than forty-five (45) days prior to requesting reinstatement, Respondent must, at her own cost:
1. Obtain an independent drug and alcohol evaluation by a pre-approved licensed addiction professional with more than five (5) years of relevant practice experience ("Independent Evaluator") who has verified receipt of this Order. The independent evaluator must verify that he/she/they have no personal or professional background or history with Respondent. The evaluation report shall meet the independent evaluation requirements posted on OPR's website. The results of the Independent Evaluation must indicate that Respondent is fit to practice and does not present a risk to the safety, health, or welfare of Respondent's potential patients/clients, as well as any recommendations that would ensure Respondent remains safe to practice. The evaluation must be submitted to the Enforcement Unit Case Manager at OPR.
 2. If recommended by an Independent Evaluator, enter into a treating professional agreement and treatment plan with a pre-approved treating professional and follow all recommendations.
 3. Respondent's petition for reinstatement must include a detailed personal statement written by Respondent that reflects on the conduct that has given rise to the discipline, what Respondent has learned through the disciplinary process as well as a full accounting of why Respondent engaged in the conduct described above, the steps Respondent has taken to rehabilitate, why adhering to ethical practice is essential in nursing practice, and what steps and what plan Respondent believes will ensure that she will not engage in such conduct in the future. Respondent shall also submit documentation and letters of support with the petition.
- B. If reinstated, Respondent's license **SHALL BE CONDITIONED** pursuant to whatever terms the Board finds reasonable at the time of Respondent's reinstatement request, taking into account the information in the petition for reinstatement, supporting documentation, the facts above, and any other factors the Board deems relevant. Such conditions may include drug/alcohol testing and treatment, individual and/or group counseling, coursework, supervised practice, employer reports, limited practice setting/hours, and a restriction against holding supervisory positions.

Pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 125(b)(11) and 3 V.S.A. § 129(a)(3), a Disciplinary Action Surcharge in the amount of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00) is assessed against Respondent. Respondent shall remit payment within 180 days of the date of entry of this Order. Payment of the surcharge may be on a payment plan if needed. Failure to remit payment may result in the non-renewal of Respondent's license/credential.

SO ORDERED.

Vermont Board of Nursing

By: William James Floyd III
3682E783001248E...

William "Jamie" Floyd, RN, Chair

Date: 8/12/2026, 2026

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

DATE OF ENTRY: 8/13/26

Appeal Rights

This is a final administrative determination by the Vermont Board of Nursing or the Director of the Office of Professional Regulation. A party aggrieved by a final decision of a board or hearing authority may appeal this decision by filing a written Notice of Appeal with the Director of the Office of Professional Regulation, Vermont Secretary of State, 89 Main Street, Fl. 3, Montpelier, VT 05620-3402 within 30 days of the entry of this order. If an appeal is filed, the Director of the Office of Professional Regulation shall assign the case to an appellate officer. The review shall be conducted on the basis of the record created before the board. In cases of alleged irregularities in procedure before the board, not shown in the record, proof on that issue may be taken by the appellate officer. 3 V.S.A. §§ 129(d) and 130a.