

BEFORE THE KANSAS STATE BOARD OF NURSING

Landon State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson #1051
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1230

FILED

JUL 1 2016

KSBN

**IN THE MATTER OF
JULIE LORENE HIGDON**

OAH Case No. 16BN01116

License No. 23-3889-082

Case No. 14-1722-6

NOTICE OF PROPOSED DEFAULT ORDER

AND

PROPOSED DEFAULT ORDER

This matter comes on for consideration by the presiding Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) to enter a Proposed Default Order against respondent, Julie Lorene Higdon.

Wherefore, the presiding ALJ finds as follows:

1. The respondent is licensed to practice nursing in Kansas.
2. The petitioner, the Kansas State Board of Nursing Board (Board), has jurisdiction over the respondent and the subject matter of this action.
3. On February 2, 2016, a Petition was filed by the Board seeking revocation of the respondent's nursing license. It was sent to her last known address and was not returned as undeliverable.
4. On February 4, 2016, a Notice of Prehearing Conference was sent to the respondent. The conference was scheduled for June 29, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. The notice was not returned as undeliverable.
5. On June 29, 2016, a prehearing conference was convened. The Board appeared by disciplinary counsel, Michelle David. The respondent did not appear in person or by phone.

6. Pursuant to Kansas Statutes Annotated (K.S.A.) 77-520(a), “[i]f a party fails to attend or participate in a prehearing conference, hearing or other stage of an adjudicative proceeding, the presiding officer may serve upon all parties written notice of a proposed default order.”
7. The respondent is in default pursuant to K.S.A. 77-520.
8. This Proposed Default Order shall become effective and deemed an initial order, seven days after service or ten days after mailing of this order unless the respondent files a written motion stating why the Proposed Default Order should be vacated and the order is then vacated. A motion to vacate shall be mailed or personally delivered to: Kansas State Board of Nursing, Legal Division, Landon State Office Building, 900 SW Jackson, Ste. 1051, Topeka KS 66612-1230, with a copy to be mailed or personally delivered to: Michele Tunnell, Administrative Law Judge, Office of Administrative Hearings, 1020 S. Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66612-1327.
9. If this Proposed Default Order becomes effective, the allegations contained in the Petition will be deemed uncontroverted and the Petition will be granted and incorporated into this order as if fully set forth herein. The respondent’s license to practice nursing will be revoked. The respondent will immediately forward his or her original Kansas nursing license to the Board.

10. In addition, costs of the action in the amount of \$100.00 will be assessed to the respondent to be paid to the Board by cashier's check or money order within 30 days of the effective date of this order.

The presiding ALJ, being well and duly advised in the premises, now enters this Proposed Default Order against the respondent. It shall take effect as specified in the above findings.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Appeal Rights and Other Administrative Relief

Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-520, if the proposed default order becomes effective, it is deemed an initial order, as set forth above. Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-527, either party may request review of the initial order by filing a petition for review with the Kansas State Board of Nursing within 15 days from date the order is deemed an initial order. Failure to timely request review may preclude further judicial review. Petitions for review shall be mailed or personally delivered to: Kansas State Board of Nursing, Legal Division, Landon State Office Building, 900 SW Jackson, Ste. 1051, Topeka, KS 66612-1230.

If neither party requests review, the initial order becomes a final order and is binding on the 30th day following its mailing.

A party may seek judicial review of a final order by filing a petition for judicial review pursuant to K.S.A. 77-601, *et seq.* Reconsideration of a final order is not a prerequisite to judicial review. A copy of any petition for judicial review shall be served on Mary Blubaugh, Executive Administrator, Kansas State Board of Nursing, 900 SW Jackson, Suite 1051, Topeka, KS 66612-1230.



Michele Tunnell
Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings
1020 S. Kansas Ave.
Topeka, KS 66612-1327

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

On June 30, 2016, I mailed this original document through State Building Mail to:

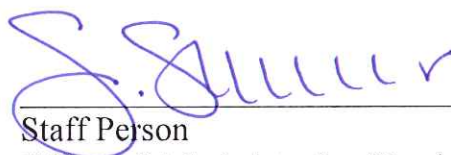
Mary Blubaugh
Executive Administrator
Kansas State Board of Nursing
900 SW Jackson, LSOB, Ste. 1051
Topeka, KS 66612
Telephone: 785-296-4325

a copy of this document through State Building Mail to:

Michelle David
Assistant Attorney General
Disciplinary Counsel for the Kansas State Board of Nursing
900 SW Jackson, LSOB, Ste. 1051
Topeka, KS 66612
Telephone: 785-296-7047

and a copy of this document through first class mail to:

Julie Lorene Higdon
509 12th Road SW
Burlington, KS 66839



Staff Person
Office of Administrative Hearings

BEFORE THE KANSAS STATE BOARD OF NURSING

Landon State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson #1051
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1230

FILED

IN THE MATTER OF JULIE LORENE HIGDON

FEB 02 2016

License No 23-38839-082

KSBN

Case No. 14-1722-6

PETITION

COMES NOW the petitioner, the Kansas State Board of Nursing, by and through Assistant Attorney General assigned to the Board, Michael R. Fitzgibbons, and for its cause of action states that:

1. Respondent, Julie Lorene Higdon, is a licensed to practice nursing in Kansas. The Board has jurisdiction over the respondent and the subject matter of this action.
2. Respondent's address of record is 509 12th Road SW Burlington, Kansas 66839.
3. After an investigation, the Board's investigative committee found reasonable grounds to believe that the respondent violated the Kansas Nurse Practice Act, K.S.A. 65-1120, and referred this matter for further proceedings.
4. The Kansas State Board of Nursing has the authority under K.S.A. 74-1106 et seq. to examine, license and renew license for duly qualified applicants and may limit, deny, suspend or revoke a license or authorization to practice nursing, may issue a public or private censure and levy administrative fines consistent with K.S.A. 74-1110, if a violation of K.S.A. 65-1120(a) is established.

FACTS COMMON TO ALL COUNTS

5. The facts below are common to all counts:
 - (a) According to a report, it is alleged that while licensee was employed at Life Care Center of Burlington, Burlington, Kansas licensee admitted to diverting liquid Morphine for personal use.
 - (b) Licensee was terminated from her employment.

(c) Licensee was charged with theft in the Municipal Court of Burlington, Kansas in case 2014-120.

(d) Licensee was granted a Diversion on the 20th day of January, 2015 on this charge and stipulates to the facts alleged in the complaint.

(e) Licensee has admitted to stealing morphine from her employer.

VIOLATIONS

6. Respondent has violated the Kansas Nurse Practice Act as follows:

Count 1: K.S.A. 65-1120(a)(6), unprofessional conduct, by drug diversion K.A.R. 60-3-110(n) divertings drugs, supplies or property of any patient or agency;

Count 2 K.S.A. 65 1120(a)(1) unprofessional conduct by fraud or deceit in practicing nursing.

WHEREFORE, petitioner requests a finding that the respondent has violated the Nurse Practice Act, that respondent's license to practice nursing in Kansas be revoked, and that costs of this action be assessed to the respondent in the amount of \$100.00.

Respectfully submitted,

Derek Schmidt
Kansas Attorney General

By:


Michael R. Fitzgibbons #12287
Assistant Attorney General
Kansas State Board of Nursing
Landon State Office Building
900 SW Jackson #1051
Topeka, KS 66612