

**BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE: MYRA JO EASTER, R.N.**  
**License Number: 0001-159451**  
**Case Numbers: 170839, 170423**

**RATIFICATION AND ORDER**

On September 21, 2016, a panel of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. Myra Jo Easter, R.N. was not present nor was she represented by legal counsel.

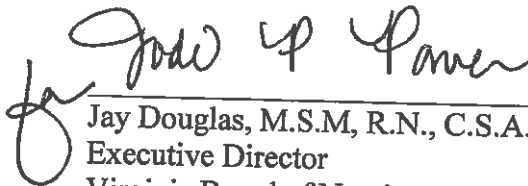
In consideration whereof, the Board of Nursing ACCEPTS the attached Recommended Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law of the Agency Subordinate and ADOPTS the Recommended Order in its entirety.

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400.2, the signed original of this Order shall remain in the custody of the Department of Health Professions as a public record, and shall be made available for public inspection and copying upon request.

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400.2(K), the Board considered whether to disclose or not disclose Ms. Easter's health records or health services.

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400(10), Ms. Easter may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on November 7, 2016, notify Jay P. Douglas, M.S.M., R.N., C.S.A.C., F.R.E., Executive Director, Board of Nursing, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233, in writing that she desires a formal administrative hearing before the Board. Upon the filing with the Executive Director of a request for the hearing, this Order shall be vacated.

FOR THE BOARD



Jay Douglas, M.S.M, R.N., C.S.A.C., F.R.E.  
Executive Director  
Virginia Board of Nursing

ENTERED AND MAILED ON:

October 5, 2016

This Order shall become final on November 7, 2016, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

Certified True Copy

By D. Fowler  
Virginia Board of Nursing

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**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF AGENCY SUBORDINATE**

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**Jurisdiction and Procedural History**

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4019 and 54.1-2400(10), Judith Piersall, R.N., B.S.N., serving as Agency Subordinate of the Virginia Board of Nursing (“Board”), held an informal conference on August 2, 2016 in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Myra Jo Easter, R.N. may have violated certain laws and regulations governing the practice of professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Ms. Easter appeared at this proceeding and was not represented by legal counsel.

Upon consideration of the evidence, the Agency Subordinate makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and recommends that the Board adopt the following Order.

**Notice**

By letter dated July 11, 2016, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference (“Notice”) to Ms. Easter notifying her that an informal conference would be held on August 2, 2016. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to the legal address of record on file with the Board of Nursing.

**Recommended Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law**

1. Myra Jo Easter, R.N. was issued License Number 0001-159451 to practice professional nursing on June 25, 1998, which is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2016. At all times relevant

to the findings herein, said license was in full force and effect. Her primary state of residence is Virginia.

2. Myra Jo Easter, R.N. violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(6) in that she is unsafe to practice professional nursing due to substance abuse and mental illness, as evidenced by the following:

a. From November 9 to November 12, 2015, Ms. Easter was admitted voluntarily to VCU Health System, Richmond, Virginia for inpatient psychiatric treatment following a suicide attempt. Her discharge diagnosis was mood disorder not otherwise specified.

b. From October 12 to October 16, 2015, Ms. Easter was admitted to Virginia Baptist Hospital, Lynchburg, Virginia, for inpatient psychiatric treatment following a suicide attempt. Her discharge diagnosis was mood disorder not otherwise specified.

c. From June 17, 2015 to June 22, 2015, Ms. Easter was admitted voluntarily to University of Virginia Health System, Charlottesville, Virginia, for inpatient psychiatric treatment following a suicide attempt. Her discharge diagnosis was major depressive disorder, recurrent, severe, without psychosis.

d. In an interview with the investigator for the Department of Health Professions, Ms. Easter revealed that, in or about October of 2014, following a nervous breakdown, she was hospitalized at Southern Maryland Hospital for psychiatric treatment after using suicidal language in the emergency room.

e. Following her discharge from University of Virginia Health System in June of 2015, Ms. Easter has received outpatient psychiatric treatment through the Crossroads Community Services Board ("CSB"), Farmville, Virginia. On September 4, 2015, her psychological assessment diagnosis was bipolar I mixed and alcohol abuse. On October 30, 2015, her psychological assessment diagnosis was major depression recurrent and anxiety disorder not otherwise specified. On December

11, 2015, her psychological assessment diagnosis was bipolar disorder unspecified and anxiety disorder unspecified.

f. In an interview with the investigator for the Department of Health Professions, Ms. Easter's doctor with the CSB said that he believes she has not been compliant with prescribed medications and uses alcohol against his advice. He also said that she has shown no willingness to improve and cannot be relied upon to take care of others.

3. During the informal conference, Ms. Easter said she was doing better. She stated that she stopped drinking alcohol, has taken Celexa (citalopram) as prescribed, has passed two drug screens, and is seeing a therapist weekly. However, she did not provide documentation to support her assertions.

4. Ms. Easter reported she last worked as a nurse in 2014, when she began receiving disability.

### **Recommended Order**

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Agency Subordinate recommends that the Board issue an Order as follows:

1. The license of Myra Jo Easter to practice professional nursing is INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED from the date of entry of this Order.
2. The license will be recorded as suspended.
3. This suspension applies to any multistate privilege to practice professional nursing.
4. Should Myra Jo Easter seek reinstatement of her license, an administrative proceeding shall be convened to consider such application. At such time, the burden shall be on Myra Jo Easter to demonstrate that she is safe and competent to return to the practice of professional nursing. Myra Jo

Easter shall be responsible for any fees that may be required for the reinstatement and/or renewal of the license prior to issuance of the license to resume practice.

5. The suspension shall be STAYED upon proof of Myra Jo Easter's entry into a Contract with the Virginia Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP").

6. Upon stay of the suspension, Myra Jo Easter shall comply with all terms and conditions of the HPMP for the period specified by the HPMP.

7. Upon receipt of evidence of Myra Jo Easter's participation in and successful completion of the terms specified by the HPMP, the Board, at its discretion, may waive Myra Jo Easter's appearance before the Board and conduct an administrative review of this matter, at which time she may be issued an unrestricted license.

8. This Order is applicable to Myra Jo Easter's multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice professional nursing. For the duration of this Order, Myra Jo Easter shall not work outside of the Commonwealth of Virginia pursuant to a multistate licensure privilege without the written permission of the Virginia Board of Nursing and the Board of Nursing in the party state where she seeks to work. Any requests for out of state employment should be directed, in writing, to the Executive Director of the Board.

9. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the stay of suspension shall be reason for summarily rescinding the stay of suspension of the license of Myra Jo Easter, and the license shall be recorded as suspended. After any rescission of the stay of suspension, a formal administrative proceeding shall be instituted.

Reviewed and approved on September 1, 2016  
By Judith Piersall, R.N., B.S.N.  
Agency Subordinate

**Certified True Copy**

By *J. Fowler*  
**Virginia Board of Nursing**