

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: **WELDON ERIK PETERSON, R.N.**  
**License Number: 0001-236389**  
**Case Number: 172329**

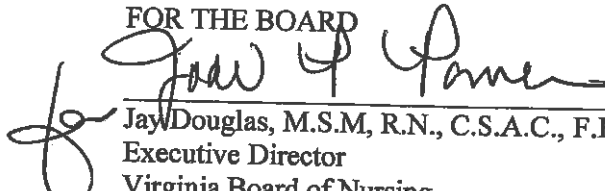
**RATIFICATION AND ORDER**

On March 22, 2017, a panel of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. Weldon Erik Peterson, R.N., was not present nor was he 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.

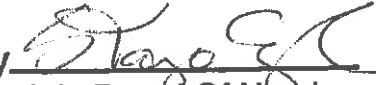
Since Mr. Peterson failed to appear at the informal conference, this Order shall be considered final. Mr. Peterson has the right to appeal this Order directly to the appropriate Virginia circuit court. As provided by Rule 2A:2 of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Mr. Peterson has thirty days from the date of service (the date he actually received this decision or the date it was mailed to him, whichever occurred first) within which to appeal this decision by filing a Notice of Appeal with Jay Douglas, Executive Director, Board of Nursing, at Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Richmond, Virginia 23233. In the event that this decision is served by mail, three days are added to that period.

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:

March 29, 2017

Certified True Copy

By   
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), Allison Gregory, M.S., R.N., F.N.P.-B.C., serving as Agency Subordinate of the Virginia Board of Nursing (“Board”), held an informal conference on January 12, 2017 in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Weldon Erik Peterson, R.N., may have violated certain laws and regulations governing the practice of professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Mr. Peterson did not appear 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 December 14, 2016, the Board sent a Notice of Informal Conference (“Notice”) to Mr. Peterson notifying him that an informal conference would be held on January 12, 2017. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to the legal address of record on file with the Board. The receipt for the Notice sent via certified mail was signed by Mr. Peterson and returned to the Board office on January 4, 2017. The Notice sent via first-class mail was not returned to the Board office. Accordingly, the Agency Subordinate concluded that adequate notice was provided to Mr. Peterson and the informal conference proceeded in his absence.

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

1. Weldon Erik Peterson, R.N., was issued License Number 0001-236389 to practice professional nursing on March 8, 2012, which expired on December 31, 2015. His primary state of residence is Virginia.
2. Mr. Peterson violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(1) and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(1)(b) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing (currently found at 18 VAC 90-19-230(A)(1)(b), effective February 24, 2017) in that on his February 25, 2012, application for licensure to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia, Mr. Peterson answered NO to the question asking whether he had a mental, physical or chemical dependency condition which could interfere with his current ability to practice nursing. By his own admission, Mr. Peterson has a history of alcohol abuse and treatment for alcohol abuse.
3. Mr. Peterson also failed to disclose multiple criminal convictions on his 2012 application for licensure in Virginia including two DUI convictions, in 1987 and 2002.
4. Mr. Peterson violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(6) in that he is unsafe to practice professional nursing due to substance abuse and/or mental and/or physical illness, as evidenced by the following: by his own admission, Mr. Peterson has a history of alcohol abuse and inpatient and outpatient treatment for alcohol abuse, and multiple convictions for driving while under the influence of alcohol between 1987 and 2011.
5. Mr. Peterson underwent alcohol detoxification treatment twice in the 1990s and once in 2004. In 2013, he left a facility after one day of detoxification treatment. He also has a history of benzodiazepine dependency.
6. Mr. Peterson violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(7) in that on March 24, 2016, Mr. Peterson's application for licensure as a professional nurse by endorsement in the State of Arizona was denied.

7. Mr. Peterson stated to the investigator for the Department of Health Professions that he last consumed alcohol in 2013, but he was unable to provide a specific date of sobriety.

8. Mr. Peterson currently has matters pending before the state boards of nursing of Maine and West Virginia. He told the investigator that he was currently enrolled in SPAN in the state of New York, which he described as a treatment program for stress and alcohol/drug abuse that he believes is for nurses. He has worked several contract nursing jobs in the past 5 years in Arizona, New York, West Virginia and Virginia. He stated that he has not practiced nursing since April 2016 and has not practiced in Virginia since September 2015.

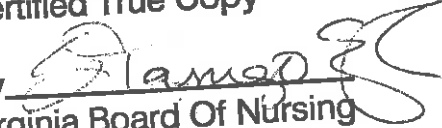
### Recommended Order

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 right of Weldon Erik Peterson, R.N., to renew his license to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia is INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED.
2. The license of Weldon Erik Peterson, R.N., will be recorded as SUSPENDED.
3. This suspension applies to any multistate privilege to practice professional nursing.
4. Should Weldon Erik Peterson, R.N., seek reinstatement of his license, an administrative proceeding shall be convened to consider such application. At such time, the burden shall be on Mr. Peterson to demonstrate that he is safe and competent to return to the practice of professional nursing. Mr. Peterson 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.

Reviewed and approved on February 25, 2017  
By Allison Gregory, M.S., R.N., F.N.P.-B.C.  
Agency Subordinate

Certified True Copy

By   
Virginia Board Of Nursing