

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: SANDRA E. THOMAS, R.N.
License No.: 0001-138069

ORDER

Pursuant to §§ 2.2-4019, 2.2-4021, and 54.1-2400(10) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended (“Code”), a Special Conference Committee (“Committee”) of the Virginia Board of Nursing (“Board”) met on February 6, 2014, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Sandra E. Thomas, R.N., may have violated certain terms and conditions imposed on her license to practice nursing in Virginia, as set forth in the Order of the Board entered on September 26, 2008 (“Board’s Order”), and to inquire into evidence that Ms. Thomas may have violated certain laws and regulations governing nursing practice in Virginia. Ms. Thomas was present and was not represented by legal counsel. Upon consideration of the evidence, the Committee adopts the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Sandra E. Thomas, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-138069 to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia on June 16, 1994. Said license was indefinitely suspended by Consent Order of the Board entered November 16, 2005, was reinstated by Order of the Board entered September 26, 2008, and is now set to expire on July 31, 2015. The license is valid in Virginia only. Her primary state of residence is Virginia.

2. By letter dated January 13, 2014, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference (“Notice”) to Ms. Thomas notifying her that an informal conference would be held on February 6, 2014. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 315 Fairfield Drive, King William, Virginia 23086, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing.

3. Term No. 1(b) of the Board's Order entered September 26, 2008, reinstated Ms. Thomas' license contingent upon her entry into and compliance with the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP," *formerly the Health Practitioners' Intervention Program*).
4. Ms. Thomas entered into the first of several Recovery Monitoring Contracts with the HPMP on September 16, 2008. Her last Recovery Monitoring Contract was entered on October 12, 2012.
5. Ms. Thomas was dismissed from the HPMP on May 20, 2013, due to noncompliance. Specifically, she failed to enter and complete treatment as recommended due to a positive drug screen that she contested and for which she provided documentation of a false positive. This documentation was provided to the HPMP outside of their time for acceptance. Moreover, Ms. Thomas had already completed treatment and was four months away from completing her contract with the HPMP when this occurred.
6. At the informal conference, Ms. Thomas reported her sobriety date as September 17, 2012. She stated that she attends AA/NA meetings two times a week, is actively working the 12-step program, and has a sponsor, who accompanied her to her informal conference. She also reported that she attends individual counseling as needed, and has a strong support system of family and friends.
7. Ms. Thomas indicated that she remains employed with Centura College as a LPN instructor on the Midlothian campus.
8. She is seen on a monthly basis for opiate dependency and receives Vivitrol injections every four weeks along with urine drug screens.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Finding of Fact No. 5 constitutes a violation of Term No. 1(b) of the Board's Order.

ORDER

On the basis of the foregoing, the Committee hereby ORDERS as follows:

1. The multistate privilege of Sandra E. Thomas, R.N., to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia is hereby REINSTATED.

2. Sandra E. Thomas, R.N., is released from the Terms of the Board Order entered September 26, 2008.

3. Ms. Thomas is hereby REPRIMANDED.

4. Ms. Thomas shall maintain a course of conduct in her capacity as a professional nurse commensurate with the requirements of § 54.1-3000 *et seq.* of the Code and the Board of Nursing Regulations.

Pursuant to §§ 2.2-4023 and 54.1-2400.2 of the Code, the signed original of this Order shall remain in the custody of the Department of Health Professions as public record and shall be made available for public inspection or copying on request.

Pursuant to Section 54.1-2400(10) of the Code, Ms. Thomas may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on April 7, 2014, 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 COMMITTEE:

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

ENTERED: March 5, 2014

This Order shall become final on April 7, 2014, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

Certified True Copy
By [Signature]
Virginia Board of Nursing