

## BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: **JOHN ERIC THOMAS, R.N.**  
License Number: **0001-229999**  
Case Number: **177152**

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**CONSENT ORDER**

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**JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

The Virginia Board of Nursing ("Board") and John Eric Thomas, R.N., as evidenced by their signatures hereto, in lieu of proceeding to an informal conference, enter into the following Consent Order affecting Mr. Thomas' license to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. John Eric Thomas, R.N., was issued License Number 0001-229999 to practice professional nursing on April 11, 2011, which is scheduled to expire on November 30, 2017. His primary state of residence is Virginia.
2. Mr. Thomas violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(2), (5), and (6) and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(c) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing in that during the course of his employment with Sentara Princess Anne Hospital, Virginia Beach, Virginia, by his own admission, he diverted Dilaudid (hydromorphone, C-II) for his personal and unauthorized use in June 2015.
3. Mr. Thomas was referred to the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP") by the Farley Center after entering residential treatment following the diversion referenced in Finding of Fact No. 1. He received inpatient treatment at the Farley Center from June 13, 2015, through August 7, 2015. He attended intensive outpatient treatment there from August 2015 through September 2015, and aftercare from October 2015 through January 2016.

4. Mr. Thomas signed a Participation Contract with HPMP on June 24, 2015, and was granted a stay of disciplinary action on February 18, 2016.

5. On February 16, 2016, Mr. Thomas was granted approval to work at Envoy of Thornton Hall. On September 29, 2016, he was granted approval to change his employment to Heartland Home Health Care and Hospice and was granted approval to access narcotics. His supervisor reported to HPMP that he had been accessing narcotics since his first day of work. HPMP rescinded his approval to work and his stay of disciplinary action was vacated.

6. Mr. Thomas resigned from Heartland and is currently employed with Men's Wellness, where he has no access to narcotics.

7. His drug screens have all been negative. As of November 16, 2016, Mr. Thomas remained enrolled in HPMP and was compliant with his HPMP contract. Mr. Thomas stated that his date of sobriety was June 5, 2015.

### CONSENT

John Eric Thomas, R.N., by affixing his signature to this Consent Order, agrees to the following:

1. I have been advised to seek advice of counsel prior to signing this document;
2. I am fully aware that without my consent, no legal action can be taken against me or my license except pursuant to the Virginia Administrative Process Act, Virginia Code § 2.2-4000 *et seq.*;
3. I acknowledge that I have the following rights, among others: the right to an informal fact-finding conference before the Board; and the right to representation by counsel;
4. I waive my right to an informal conference;

5. I admit to the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained herein and waive my right to contest such Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and any sanction imposed hereunder in any future judicial or administrative proceeding in which the Board is a party;

6. I consent to the entry of the following Order affecting my licensure to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

### ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Virginia Board of Nursing hereby ORDERS as follows:

1. The Board shall TAKE NO ACTION at this time, contingent upon Mr. Thomas' compliance with the following terms and conditions:

a. John Eric Thomas, R.N., shall continue to comply with all terms and conditions of his Contract with the Virginia Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP") for the period specified in the Contract.

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

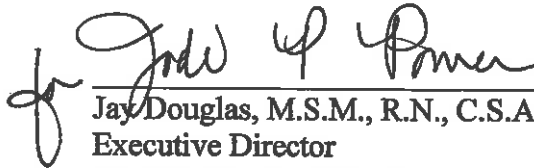
c. This Order is applicable to Mr. Thomas' multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia. For the duration of this Order, Mr. Thomas shall not work outside of the Commonwealth of Virginia pursuant to a multistate licensure privilege without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

d. Mr. Thomas shall comply with all laws and regulations governing the practice of professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

2. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of this Order or with any statute or regulation governing the practice of nursing shall constitute grounds for an administrative proceeding before the Board.

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4023 and 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.

FOR THE BOARD



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

ENTERED: March 8, 2017

SEEN AND AGREED TO:

  
John Eric Thomas, R.N.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
COUNTY/CITY OF Virginia Beach, TO WIT: Joseph Barber

Subscribed and sworn to me, a notary public in and for the Commonwealth of Virginia at large, on this  
25<sup>th</sup> day of Feb, 2017.



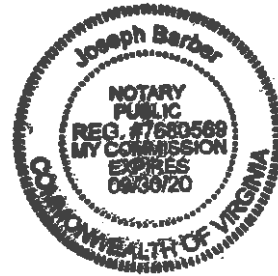
Notary Public

My commission expires:

9-30-20

Registration No.:

768056A



Certified True Copy

By   
Virginia Board of Nursing