

**BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE: SOPHIE ECHO ANDERSON, R.N.**  
**LicenseNumber: 0001-260091**  
**Case Number: 171048**

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**ORDER**

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**JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4020, 2.2-4024(F), and 54.1-2400(11), a panel of the Virginia Board of Nursing (“Board”) held a formal administrative hearing on November 14, 2016, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Sophie Echo Anderson, R.N., may have violated certain laws and regulations governing the practice of nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Sophie Echo Anderson, R.N., did not appear at this proceeding and was not represented by legal counsel.

**NOTICE**

By letter dated October 26, 2016, the Board sent a Notice of Formal Hearing (“Notice”) to Ms. Anderson notifying her that a formal administrative hearing would be held on November 14, 2016. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to the legal address of record on file with the Board. According to the United States Postal Service website, the Notice sent by certified mail could not be delivered and was scheduled to be returned to the Board office. The Notice sent by first class mail was not returned to the Board office. Accordingly, the panel Chair concluded that adequate notice was provided to Ms. Anderson and the formal hearing proceeded in her absence.

Upon consideration of the evidence, the Board adopts the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and issues the Order contained herein.

## FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On July 16, 2015, the Board issued License Number 0001-260091 to Sophie Echo Anderson, R.N. to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Said license is scheduled to expire on May 31, 2017. At all times relevant hereto, said license was in full force and effect. Her primary state of residence is Virginia.
2. Between October 3, 2015, and November 16, 2015, during the course of her employment with Inova Fair Oaks Hospital, Fairfax, Virginia, Ms. Anderson diverted controlled medications for her personal and unauthorized use, as evidenced by the following:
  - a. On October 3, 2015, Ms. Anderson withdrew a 1mg syringe of hydromorphone (C-II) at 8:49 a.m. and documented administering 0.5mg to Patient A at 8:51 a.m. Ms. Anderson failed to document wastage of 0.5mg.
  - b. On October 13, 2015, Ms. Anderson withdrew a 4mg syringe of morphine sulfate (C-II) at 8:17 a.m. and documented administering 3mg to Patient B at 8:23 a.m. Ms. Anderson failed to document wastage of 1mg.
  - c. On November 12, 2015, Ms. Anderson withdrew a 1mg syringe of hydromorphone at 11:20 a.m. and documented administering 0.5mg to Patient C at 11:23 a.m. Ms. Anderson failed to document wastage of 0.5mg.
  - d. On November 16, 2015, Ms. Anderson withdrew a 2mg syringe of lorazepam (C-IV) at 10:29 a.m. and documented administering 1mg to Patient D at 10:33 a.m. Ms. Anderson failed to document wastage of 1mg.
3. On November 18, 2015, Ms. Anderson reported to duty at Inova Fair Oaks Hospital in an impaired condition. Ms. Anderson was observed having constricted pupils and was unable to focus

on her patient's needs. Further, a for-cause drug screen was conducted, which returned a positive result for opiates and benzodiazepines, drugs which were not prescribed to Ms. Anderson.

4. In her interview with the Department of Health Professions' investigator, Ms. Anderson admitted that she has a drug and heroin addiction.

5. In her interview with the Department of Health Professions' investigator, Ms. Anderson denied diversion and stated that she kept the medications in her pocket and performed waste and documentation at the end of her shift; she then told the investigator that she would forget to waste medication.

6. Ms. Anderson was dismissed from the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program for noncompliance.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Findings of Fact Nos. 2(a) through 2(d) constitute a violation of 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.

2. Finding of Fact No. 3 constitutes a violation of Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(5) and (6).

3. Finding of Fact No. 4 constitutes a violation of Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(6).

#### **ORDER**

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

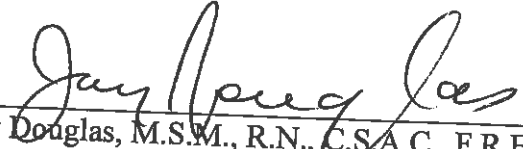
1. The license issued to Sophie Echo Anderson, R.N., to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia is INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED for a period of not less than two years from the date of entry of this Order.

2. The license of Ms. Anderson will be recorded as SUSPENDED.

3. This suspension applies to any multistate privilege to practice professional nursing.
4. Should Ms. Anderson seek reinstatement of her license, an administrative proceeding shall be convened to consider such application. At such time, the burden shall be on Ms. Anderson to demonstrate that she is safe and competent to return to the practice of professional nursing. Ms. Anderson 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.

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 AND MAILED ON:

November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL**

As provided by Rule 2A:2 of the Supreme Court of Virginia, you have 30 days from the date you are served with this Order in which to appeal this decision by filing a Notice of Appeal with Jay 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. The service date shall be defined as the date you actually received this decision or the date it was mailed to you, whichever occurred first. In the event this decision is served upon you by mail, three days are added to that period.

Certified True Copy  
By   
Virginia Board Of Nursing