

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: JESSICA RENEA NEEDHAM, L.P.N. REINSTATEMENT APPLICANT
License Number: 0002-073482
Case Number: 172466

ORDER

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 September 19, 2016, in Henrico County, Virginia, to receive and act upon Ms. Needham’s application for reinstatement of her license to practice practical nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia and to inquire into evidence that Ms. Needham may have violated certain laws governing the practice of practical nursing in Virginia.

Jessica Renea Needham L.P.N., appeared at this proceeding and was represented by Richard Kennedy, Esquire.

NOTICE

By letter dated August 9, 2016, the Board sent a Notice of Formal Hearing (“Notice”) to Ms. Needham notifying her that a formal administrative hearing would be held on September 19, 2016. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to the legal address of record on file with the Board.

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 May 25, 2006, the Board issued License Number 0002-073482 to Jessica Renea Needham to practice practical nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Said license was revoked on

April 5, 2012. Her primary state of residence is Virginia. Ms. Needham also holds Registration No. 0031-008945 to practice as a medication aide which expires on October 31, 2016.

2. By Order of the Board entered April 5, 2012, Ms. Needham's license to practice practical nursing was revoked due to findings that she fraudulently obtained more than 60 prescriptions for narcotic medications by filling prescriptions with a forged physician's signature and selling the prescriptions for monetary gain.

3. On February 4, 2016, the Board received Ms. Needham's application for reinstatement.

4. On November 7, 2012, in the Circuit Court of Lee County, Virginia, Ms. Needham was convicted of five counts of conspiring to obtain drugs by fraud, five counts of obtaining drugs by fraud, and two counts of possession of a Schedule II drug, all felonies.

5. Ms. Needham was sentenced to three years incarceration, with two years, seven months and fifteen days suspended for the felony charges. She was also convicted of two misdemeanor counts of possession of a Schedule II drug and was sentenced to twelve months in jail on each count, with seven months and fifteen days suspended. Upon her release, she was placed on three years supervised probation, which she completed on April 1, 2015.

6. Ms. Needham became a registered medication aide on September 3, 2015. She is currently employed as a medication aide at Kingston Center Assisted Living, Duffield, Virginia. She presented evidence that she has received excellent employee performance evaluations from Kingston Center.

7. Ms. Needham testified that she did not take any pills for her own consumption. She further stated that she has lost everything due to the revocation of her license. She told the Board that the conduct underlying her convictions was the biggest mistake of her life, and that she would never do such a thing again.

8. Ms. Needham offered evidence of completion of a medication administration refresher course, an L.P.N. refresher course, and other continuing education that the Board found relevant to her practice. Ms. Needham also submitted evidence that she has a job opportunity as an L.P.N. at Kingston Center.

9. One of Ms. Needham's coworkers testified that she trusts Ms. Needham's judgment and ability and has witnessed her handle stress well, and that people like to work with her.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

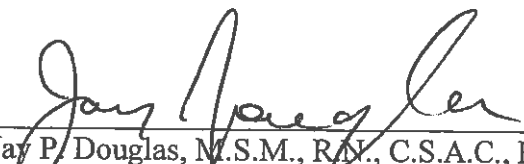
Finding of Fact No. 4 constitutes a violation of Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(4).

ORDER

WHEREFORE, the Virginia Board of Nursing, by affirmative vote of at least three-fourths of the members of the Board at the proceeding, effective upon entry of this Order, ORDERS that the license issued to Jessica Renea Needham L.P.N., to practice practical nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia is REINSTATED without restriction.

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

ENTERED AND MAILED ON:

October 6th, 2016

Certified True Copy
By 
Virginia Board Of Nursing

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.