

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE:

ELIZABETH A. MEADOWS, R.N.

CONSENT ORDER

Pursuant to §§ 2.2-4019, 2.2-4021 and 54.1-2400(10) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended (“Code”), an informal conference was held before a Special Conference Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Nursing (“Board”) on June 16, 2009, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Elizabeth A. Meadows, R.N., may have violated certain laws and regulations governing the practice of nursing in Virginia. Ms. Meadows was not present and was not represented by legal counsel.

Upon consideration of the evidence presented, the Committee adopted the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Elizabeth A. Meadows, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-142782 to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia on May 12, 1995. Said license expires on June 30, 2010. Ms. Meadows was issued License No. 698746 to practice professional nursing in the State of California on February 27, 2007. Said license expired on July 31, 2008.

2. By her own admission, during the course of Ms. Meadows’ employment with Riverside Regional Hospital, Newport News, Virginia (“Riverside”), from February, 2008, until August 10, 2008, she diverted drugs for her own personal and unauthorized use. The drugs included fentanyl (schedule II), Dilaudid (hydromorphone, schedule II) and morphine (schedule II). Though Ms. Meadows was on sick leave as of July 28, 2008, she returned to the facility after that date, and accessed the Pyxis machine in order to obtain several of the drugs. Ms. Meadows resigned from Riverside, effective August 30, 2008.

3. Ms. Meadows is unable to safely practice as a professional nurse due to substance abuse and

depression, as she acknowledged in a Recovery Monitoring Contract with the Virginia Health Practitioners' Intervention Program ("HPIP"), dated November 3, 2008.

4. On August 22, 2008, the Department of Health Professions received a complaint that Ms. Meadows may have violated certain laws and regulations governing the professional nursing in Virginia. On September 5, 2008, Ms. Meadows entered a Participation Contract, and on November 3, 2008, she entered a Recovery Monitoring Contract with the HPIP, pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2525 *et seq.* and 18 VAC 76-10-10 *et seq.* On or about December 12, 2008, the HPIP Committee granted Ms. Meadows a stay of disciplinary action regarding this complaint with the expectation that Ms. Meadows would comply with the terms of her contracts. On February 20, 2009, due to her resignation from HPIP, the HPIP Committee voted to vacate the stay of disciplinary action. Ms. Meadows resigned from HPIP due to financial difficulties.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Finding of Fact No. 2 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(2), (5) and (6) of the Code 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 § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code.

CONSENT

Elizabeth A. Meadows, R.N., by affixing her signature hereon, agrees to the following:

1. She has been advised to seek advice of counsel prior to signing this document;
2. She acknowledges that without her consent, no legal action can be taken against her except pursuant to the Virginia Administrative Process Act, § 2.2-4000(A) *et seq.* of the Code;

3. She acknowledges that she has the following rights, among others: the right to a formal fact finding hearing before the Board, the right to reasonable notice of said hearing, the right to representation by counsel, and the right to cross-examine witnesses against her;

4. She waives all such right to a formal hearing;

5. She admits the Findings of Fact contained herein and waives her right to contest such Findings of Fact in any subsequent proceeding before the Board;

6. She consents to the entry of the following Order affecting her right to practice professional nursing in Virginia.

ORDER

WHEREFORE, on the basis of the foregoing, the Virginia Board of Nursing, effective upon entry of this Order, and in lieu of further proceedings, hereby ORDERS as follows:

1. License No. 0001-142782 of Elizabeth A. Meadows, R.N, is INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED.

2. The license will be recorded as suspended and no longer current.


3. At such time as Ms. Meadows shall petition the Board for reinstatement of her license, an administrative proceeding will be convened to determine whether she is capable of resuming the safe and competent practice of professional nursing. Ms. Meadows shall be responsible for any fees that may be required for the reinstatement and renewal of the license prior to issuance of the license to resume practice.

4. This suspension applies to any multistate privilege to practice professional nursing.

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 upon request.

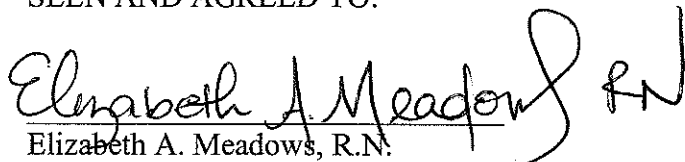
AUG 06 2009
DHP

FOR THE BOARD


Lynne Cooper
President, Virginia Board of Nursing

ENTERED: 9-16-09

SEEN AND AGREED TO:


Elizabeth A. Meadows, R.N.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,
COUNTY/CITY OF James City, TO WIT:

Subscribed and sworn to before me, Stephanie Hildebrand a Notary Public, this 5th day of August, 2009.

My commission expires August 31, 2009.

Registration Number 369273.


NOTARY PUBLIC

