

**BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE: TERESA ANNE THOMAS, R.N. REINSTATEMENT APPLICANT**  
**License Number: 0001-137655**  
**Suspension Date: August 23, 2016**  
**Case Number: 181026**

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**NOTICE OF FORMAL ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING  
AND STATEMENT OF ALLEGATIONS**

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**You are hereby notified that a Formal Hearing has been scheduled before the Board of Nursing (“Board”) regarding your application for reinstatement of your license to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia following its mandatory suspension by the Department of Health Professions.**

<b>TYPE OF PROCEEDING:</b>	This is a formal administrative hearing before a panel of the Board.
<b>DATE AND TIME:</b>	<b>September 20, 2017 10:00 A.M.</b>
<b>PLACE:</b>	Virginia Department of Health Professions Perimeter Center - 9960 Mayland Drive 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor - Virginia Conference Center Henrico, Virginia 23233

**LEGAL AUTHORITY AND JURISDICTION:**

1. This formal hearing is being held pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4020, 2.2-4024(F), and 54.1-2400(11). This proceeding will be convened as a public meeting pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3700.

2. The burden rests on you, as the applicant, to demonstrate that you are prepared to resume the safe and competent practice of professional nursing.

3. In considering your application, the Board will consider evidence that grounds exist to deny your application for reinstatement of your license to practice professional nursing, as more fully set out in the enclosed Statement of Allegations.

4. At the conclusion of the proceeding, the Board is authorized to take any of the following actions:

- Approve your application and issue an unrestricted license to practice professional nursing;
- Approve your application and issue a reprimand, a monetary penalty, and/or a restricted license subject to terms and conditions;

- Deny your application and continue your license on indefinite suspension or revoke your license.

#### **ABSENCE OF APPLICANT AND APPLICANT'S COUNSEL:**

If you fail to appear at the formal hearing, the Board may proceed to hear this matter in your absence and may take any of the actions outlined above.

#### **APPLICANT'S LEGAL RIGHTS:**

You have the right to the information on which the Board will rely in making its decision, to be represented by counsel at this proceeding, to subpoena witnesses and/or documents, and to present relevant evidence on your behalf.

#### **COMMONWEALTH'S EXHIBITS:**

Enclosed is a copy of the documents that will be distributed to the members of the Board and will be considered by the Board when discussing any allegations with you and when deliberating on your case. **These documents are enclosed only with the notice sent by certified mail, which you may be required to claim at the post office. Please bring these documents with you to the formal hearing.**

#### **FILING DEADLINES:**

1. Deadline for filing exhibits: **September 6, 2017**. Submit 15 copies of all documents you want the Board to consider to Darlene Graham, Board of Nursing, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233. Exhibits may not be sent by facsimile or e-mail.

The Commonwealth must file any objections to your submissions in writing, addressed to Darlene Graham at the Board office, no later than **September 11, 2017**. If no objections have been received by **September 11, 2017**, the evidence will be distributed to the Board members for their review, and will be considered by the Board as evidence when it deliberates upon your case. If the Commonwealth raises objections, you have until **September 15, 2017**, to file your response to the objections, in writing and addressed to Darlene Graham at the Board office. The Chair of the proceeding will rule on the motion.

2. Deadline for filing motions: **September 6, 2017**, addressed to Darlene Graham at the above address.

3. Deadline for filing any objections to the Commonwealth's exhibits, in writing, to Darlene Graham at the above address: **September 6, 2017**. If you do not file objections by this date, the exhibits will be distributed to the Board members for their review prior to your hearing, and will be considered by the Board as evidence when it deliberates on your case. If you do file objections, the Commonwealth has until **September 11, 2017** to file a response to the objections, in writing, and addressed to Darlene Graham at the Board office. The Chair of the proceeding will rule on the motion.

NOTE: failure to object to the distribution of the Commonwealth's exhibits prior to the proceeding will not affect your right to contest any information contained in those exhibits at the proceeding.

**REQUEST FOR A CONTINUANCE:**

Absent exigent circumstances, such as personal or family illness, a request for a continuance after **September 6, 2017** will not be considered. If you obtain counsel, you should do so as soon as possible, as a motion for a continuance due to the unavailability of counsel will not be considered unless received by **September 6, 2017**.

**OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2409(D), reinstatement of your license requires the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members of the Board in attendance at the hearing.

## STATEMENT OF ALLEGATIONS

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The Board alleges that grounds exist to refuse to reinstate the license of Teresa Anne Thomas to practice professional nursing in that:

1. Ms. Thomas violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(7) in that on or about June 7, 2016, the Texas Board of Nursing entered an Order accepting the surrender of Ms. Thomas' license to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas in lieu of disciplinary action. Said action formed the basis of the mandatory suspension of her license to practice professional nursing in Virginia.

2. Ms. Thomas violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(6) in that she is unsafe to practice professional nursing due to substance abuse and/or physical and/or mental illness, as evidenced by the following:

a. From on or about February 20 through 26, 2016, Ms. Thomas was hospitalized at VCU Medical Center, Richmond, Virginia, with diagnoses including major depressive disorder, recurrent, severe, without psychotic features, and alcohol dependence. During her admission, Ms. Thomas reported drinking three liters of wine or one fifth of bourbon a day. Further, a family member reported that Ms. Thomas has had substance abuse issues for many years.

b. On or about March 6, 2016, Ms. Thomas began receiving mental health treatment at The Daily Planet, Richmond, Virginia, with diagnoses including major depressive disorder, recurrent, moderate and alcohol abuse.

c. On or about July 24, 2017, during an interview with an investigator from the Department of Health Professions, Ms. Thomas reported that she continues to drink alcohol and has not entered substance abuse treatment.

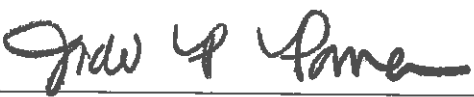
3. Ms. Thomas violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(5) in that during the course of her employment with Valley Health System, Winchester, Virginia, she was repeatedly counseled for being

rude, making inappropriate remarks and using profanity in the presence of patients. Further, prior to her termination on or about April 8, 2011, she was counseled for failing to follow the verbal orders of a physician.

4. Ms. Thomas violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(2) and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(e) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing (“Regulations”) (currently found at 18 VAC 90-19-230(A)(2)(e) effective February 24, 2017) in that on the employment application with TruStaff, a travel nurse agency, Ms. Thomas indicated that she was employed by Valley Health System from June 1990 – April 2012, and that her reason for leaving Valley Health System was “other opportunity,” when, in fact, her employment was terminated on April 8, 2011, for job standards not being met.

5. Ms. Thomas violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(1) and 18 VAC 90-19-230(A)(1)(b) of the Regulations in that on the application for reinstatement dated May 24, 2017, Ms. Thomas falsely answered “no” to the question pertaining to criminal convictions; however, by her own admission, in approximately 1996 she was convicted of a misdemeanor bad check charge in Frederick County, Virginia.

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400.2(K), the Board considered whether to disclose or not disclose Ms. Thomas’s health records or health services.

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

August 23, 2017  
Date