

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: MELONY J. BLAKE, R.N.  
License No.: 0001-206881

ORDER

In accordance with §§ 2.2-4019, 2.2-4021 and 54.1-2400(10) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code"), an informal conference was conducted on behalf of the Board of Nursing ("Board") on October 25, 2011, in Henrico County, Virginia. Melony J. Blake, R.N., was present and was not represented by legal counsel. Janet Younger, serving as Agency Subordinate for the Board, submitted a Recommended Decision for consideration.

On January 25, 2012, a quorum of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. Ms. Blake was not present nor was she represented by legal counsel.

Based upon its review of the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate, the Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and issues the following Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Melony J. Blake, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-206881 to practice professional nursing in Virginia on June 6, 2007. The license is scheduled to expire on September 30, 2013. Ms. Blake's primary state of residence is Virginia.
2. By letter dated September 29, 2011, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Blake notifying her that an informal conference would be held on October 25, 2011. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 5131 Richard Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23462, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing.

3. On September 29, 2010, the Board entered an Order ("Board's Order") against Ms. Blake stemming from her diversion of narcotic medication from her place of employment, Sentara Obici Hospital, Suffolk, Virginia. The Board's Order took no action against Ms. Blake, contingent upon her continued compliance with all terms and conditions of the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP") for the period specified by the HPMP, which she had entered by signing a Participation Contract on May 5, 2010.

4. On February 18, 2011, Ms. Blake was dismissed from the HPMP for noncompliance, including failing to submit to a required urine drug screen in September 2010, failing to call in for urine drug screen test selection in October 2010, submitting a diluted urine drug screen in October 2010, urine drug screens that were positive for alcohol in November and December 2010, and failing to complete an assessment for residential treatment as directed by the HPMP. At the informal conference, Ms. Blake did not deny any of the factual circumstances that precipitated her dismissal from the HPMP.

5. Ms. Blake signed a new Participation Contract with HPMP on August 29, 2011, and a Recovery Monitoring Contract on September 26, 2011. She admitted that she is an alcoholic, and stated that June 6, 2011, is her newest date of sobriety. In October 2011, she completed an eight-week intensive outpatient therapy program with Lakeview Psychotherapy in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and continues to attend aftercare there. She stated that she currently attends twice-daily meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous or Caduceus. She stated that she is on Step No. 4 of Alcoholics Anonymous' 12-step program and is taking Seroquel daily. Ms. Blake stated she became addicted to painkillers that she had been prescribed to deal with personal problems.

6. The disposition of Ms. Blake's criminal charges pending in the Circuit Court of the City of Suffolk related to her diversion has been deferred until June 2013, at which time the charges could be dismissed contingent upon her complying with the terms of the court's order. Ms. Blake's employment

with Sentara Obici Hospital was not terminated. Ms. Blake was on military leave from Sentara Obici Hospital from October 2010 through October 2011, during which time she was stationed at Langley, Virginia and worked in an intelligence capacity.

### CONCLUSION OF LAW

Finding of Fact No. 4 constitutes a violation of Term No. 1 of the Board's Order.

### ORDER

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. Melony J. Blake, R.N., is hereby REPRIMANDED.
2. The Board shall TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION contingent upon Ms. Blake's continued compliance with all terms and conditions of the HPMP for the period specified by the HPMP.
3. Any violation of the terms and conditions stated in this Order shall be reason for revoking the license of Ms. Blake, and an administrative proceeding shall be held to decide whether her license should be revoked. Ms. Blake shall be noticed to appear before the Board at such time as the Board is notified that:
  - a. Ms. Blake is not in compliance with the terms and conditions of the HPMP, or has been terminated from participation in the HPMP;
  - b. There is a pending investigation or unresolved allegation against Ms. Blake involving a violation of law or regulation or any term or condition of this Order; or
  - c. Ms. Blake has successfully completed the above-referenced period of participation in the HPMP. However, upon receipt of Ms. Blake's participation in and compliance with the HPMP, the Board, at its discretion, may waive Ms. Blake's appearance before the Board and conduct an administrative review of this matter.
4. This Order is applicable to Ms. Blake's multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice.


professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia. For the duration of this Order, Ms. Blake 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 Ms. Blake wishes to work. Any requests for out of state employment should be directed, in writing, to the Executive Director of the Board.

5. Ms. Blake shall maintain a course of conduct in her capacity as a professional nurse commensurate with the requirements of § 54.1-3000 *et seq.* of the Code and the Board of Nursing Regulations.

Pursuant to § 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 a public record, and shall be made available for public inspection and copying upon request.

Pursuant to Section 54.1-2400(10) of the Code, Ms. Blake may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on March 13, 2012, notify Jay P. Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C., Executive Director, Board of Nursing, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233, in writing that she desires a formal administrative hearing before the Board. Upon the filing with the Executive Director of a request for the hearing, this Order shall be vacated.

FOR THE BOARD:

*for*   
Jay P. Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C.  
Executive Director  
Virginia Board of Nursing

ENTERED: February 9, 2012

This Order shall become final on March 13, 2012 unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

**Certified True Copy**  
By *deraham*  
Virginia Board of Nursing