

**VIRGINIA:**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE: MELANIE H. L. JONES, R.N.**  
**License No.: 0001-178815**

**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 December 17, 2015, in Henrico County, Virginia. Ms. Jones was present and was represented by Ramon Rodriguez III, Esquire. Allison Gregory, M.S., R.N., F.N.P.-B.C., serving as Agency Subordinate for the Board, submitted a Recommended Decision for consideration.

On March 23, 2016, a quorum of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. Ms. Jones 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. Melanie H. L. Jones, R.N. was issued License No. 0001-178815 to practice professional nursing in Virginia on April 26, 2002. The license is scheduled to expire on August 31, 2017. Ms. Jones' primary state of residence is Virginia.
2. By letter dated September 22, 2015, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Jones notifying her that an informal conference would be held on October 22, 2015. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 5400 Elsom Mascot Road, Mascot, Virginia 23108, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing. Through her counsel, Ms. Jones requested a continuance. The request was granted. By letter dated October 7, 2015, the Board notified

Ms. Jones and her counsel that the matter had been rescheduled to December 17, 2015.

3. During the course of her employment with Mary Washington Healthcare, Fredericksburg, Virginia (“MWHC”):

a. On January 16, 2015, Ms. Jones hung a liter bag of normal saline solution to flush a patient’s IV line and administered approximately 200cc of fluid, without a physician’s order. Further, Ms. Jones failed to document the amount of fluid administered to the patient.

b. On September 13, 2013, Ms. Jones changed the route of medication administration for a patient from IV to IM without the physician’s knowledge or approval.

4. As a result of these incidents, Ms. Jones’ employment was terminated on January 27, 2015.

5. At the informal conference, Ms. Jones stated that at the time of the incident on January 16, 2015, she was trying to help the oncoming nurse at shift change because the emergency room was busy. Ms. Jones stated that she was trying to start the IV, but the line became backed up with blood. Ms. Jones thought it would be better to flush the line with a bag of saline than with the 10 cc saline flush that was normally used. Ms. Jones said that her intention was to clear blood from the line with 20 cc of fluid, but she was distracted and left the bag flowing. She did not intend for the patient to receive as much fluid as he did. Ms. Jones described this as an error in judgment on her part and was remorseful. There was no patient harm.

6. Ms. Jones stated that at the time of the incident on September 13, 2013, she was trying to get a physician order because the patient refused the IV. When she could not find the physician, Ms. Jones went ahead and gave the IM injection without the order. She stated that this was a mistake and verbalized understanding of the safety risk posed to patients by doing this without a physician’s order.

7. Ms. Jones stated that she is currently unemployed and has not worked since her

termination from employment with MWHC due to health problems. She had been employed at MWHC since 2011 and has been a nurse since 2002.

8. Ms. Jones completed a nurse practitioner program in December 2014 and passed the examination, and her application for licensure as a nurse practitioner in Virginia is pending the result of this matter.

9. By Order of the Board entered September 30, 2008, Ms. Jones' license was indefinitely suspended with the suspension stayed contingent upon continued compliance with the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP") based on findings of diversion and impairment. Ms. Jones successfully completed HPMP and was released from the terms and conditions of the 2008 Order by Order of the Board entered April 13, 2012.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Findings of Fact Nos. 3(a) and (b) constitute a violation of §54.1-3007(2), (5), and (8) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(a) and (f) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing.

#### ORDER

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. Melanie H. L. Jones, R.N. is hereby REPRIMANDED.
2. Ms. Jones shall provide the Board with verification that s/he has completed National Council of State Board of Nursing ("NCSBN") online courses, *Professional Accountability & Legal Liability for Nurses* and *Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills* within 60 days of the entry of this Order. This course shall not be credited toward the continued competency requirements for the next renewal of her license.
3. Ms. Jones 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.

4. Any violation of the terms and conditions of this Order or of any law or regulation affecting the practice of professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia shall constitute grounds for the suspension or revocation of the license of Melanie H. L. Jones, R.N. and an administrative proceeding shall be convened to determine whether such license shall be suspended or revoked.

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. Jones may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on May 31, 2016, notify Jay P. Douglas, MSM, RN, CSAC, FRE, 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* *Aloria Mitchell-Lewis*  
Jay P. Douglas, MSM, RN, CSAC, FRE  
Executive Director  
Virginia Board of Nursing

ENTERED: *April 27, 2016*

Certified True Copy

By *dgraham*  
Virginia Board Of Nursing

This Order shall become final on May 31, 2016 unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.