

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: SARAH DEANNE CRESSELL, R.N.
License Number: 0001-224476
Case Number: 173558

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 July 20, 2016, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Sarah Deanne Cressell, R.N., may have violated certain laws governing the practice of professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia and certain terms of the Order of the Board entered June 25, 2015 (“Board’s Order”).

Sarah Deanne Cressell, R.N. did not appear at this proceeding and was not represented by legal counsel.

NOTICE

By letter dated July 1, 2016, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Formal Hearing (“Notice”) to Ms. Cressell notifying her that a formal administrative hearing would be held on July 20, 2016. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to the legal address of record on file with the Board of Nursing. According to the U.S.P.S. tracking website, the Notice sent by certified mail had gone out for delivery on July 5, 2016, but it was never successfully delivered. The Notice sent by first class mail was not returned to the Board’s office. Accordingly, the panel Chair concluded that adequate notice was provided to Ms. Cressell and the formal hearing proceeded in her absence.

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. Sarah Deanne Cressell, R.N. holds License No. 0001-224476 to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia. By Order of the Board entered March 18, 2014, Ms. Cressell's license was indefinitely suspended, with the suspension stayed contingent on certain conditions. The stay of suspension was summarily rescinded on January 22, 2015. By Order of the Board entered June 25, 2015 ("Board's Order"), Ms. Cressell's license was continued on indefinite suspension, with the suspension stayed contingent on certain conditions. The stay of suspension was summarily rescinded on April 26, 2016. Ms. Cressell's primary state of residence is Virginia.
2. By Order entered March 18, 2014, the Board indefinitely suspended Ms. Cressell's license with the suspension stayed contingent on her entry into and compliance with the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP"). The Order was based on findings that Ms. Cressell had diverted Demerol PCA (meperidine, C-II) on multiple occasions while working at the Wythe County Community Hospital, Wytheville, Virginia.
3. Ms. Cressell was dismissed from the HPMP on December 16, 2014 for noncompliance due to her failure to enter and complete treatment as recommended and her failure to comply with the toxicology screening program. As a result, the stay of suspension was summarily rescinded on January 22, 2015.
4. By Order entered June 25, 2015 ("Board's Order"), Ms. Cressell was issued a reprimand and her license was continued on indefinite suspension with the suspension stayed contingent upon her entry into and compliance with the HPMP. The Board's Order was based on findings that Ms. Cressell had been dismissed from the HPMP for noncompliance and her testimony that she was ready and willing to return to the HPMP and that she was financially able to comply.
5. Ms. Cressell signed a Participation Contract with the HPMP on June 8, 2015.

6. On March 18, 2016, Ms. Cressell was dismissed from the HPMP for failure to comply with recommended treatment, continued use of unauthorized substances, failure to respond to HPMP communications, and failure to comply with the toxicology screening program.

7. In December 2015, by her own admission, Ms. Cressell relapsed by taking Xanax (alprazolam, C-IV), for which she did not have a prescription.

8. Ms. Cressell failed to respond to any of the contact attempts made by an investigator for the Department of Health Professions (“DHP investigator”). On June 1, 2016, Ms. Cressell’s mother told the DHP investigator that Ms. Cressell had received the DHP investigator’s letter, but did not plan to call the investigator.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Finding of Fact No. 6 constitutes a violation of Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(6) and Term No. 6 of the Board’s Order.
2. Finding of Fact No. 7 constitutes a violation of Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(6).
3. Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400.2(K), the Board considered whether to disclose or not disclose Ms. Cressell’s health records or health services.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Virginia Board of Nursing hereby ORDERS as follows:


1. Sarah Deanne Cressell, R.N. is REPRIMANDED.
2. The right of Ms. Cressell to renew her license to practice in the Commonwealth of Virginia is INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED.
3. The license of Ms. Cressell will be recorded as SUSPENDED.
4. This suspension applies to any multistate privilege to practice professional nursing.

August 4, 2016

5. Should Ms. Cressell seek reinstatement of her license, an administrative proceeding shall be convened to consider such application. At such time, the burden shall be on Ms. Cressell to demonstrate that she is safe and competent to return to the practice of professional nursing. Ms. Cressell shall be responsible for any fees that may be required for the reinstatement and/or renewal of the license prior to issuance of the license to resume practice.

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

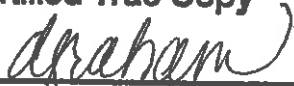

Jay P. Douglas, M.S.M., R.N., C.S.A.C., F.R.E.
Executive Director
Virginia Board of Nursing

ENTERED AND MAILED ON:

August 4th, 2016

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.

Certified True Copy
By 
Virginia Board Of Nursing