

**VIRGINIA:**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE: ELAINE HUGHES, R.N.  
License No.: 0001-226603**

**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 November 10, 2015 in Henrico County, Virginia. Ms. Hughes was present and was not represented by legal counsel. 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 January 27, 2016, a quorum of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. Ms. Hughes 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. Elaine Hughes, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-226603 to practice professional nursing in Virginia on August 11, 2010. Said license is set to expire on June 30, 2017. Ms. Hughes' primary state of residence is Virginia.
2. By letter dated October 13, 2015, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Hughes notifying her that an informal conference would be held on November 10, 2015. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 105 Merrill Court, Stafford, Virginia, 22554, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing.

3. During the course of her employment with Mary Washington Healthcare, Stafford Hospital, Fredericksburg, Virginia, on April 7, 2015, by her own admission, Ms. Hughes ordered hydralazine, Dilaudid (hydromorphone, C-II), Zofran and Tylenol for a patient, in the physician's name, and administered hydralazine, Zofran and Dilaudid to the patient, without a physician's order. Ms. Hughes wrote a STAT order, which she sent to the pharmacy for the above four medications, and falsely documented that it was a verbal order received from the physician.

4. When Ms. Hughes notified the physician about the orders that needed her approval, the physician refused to sign the orders written by Ms. Hughes. The physician reported that she would have chosen different treatment options for the patient.

5. In a written statement submitted to an investigator for the Virginia Department of Health Professions, Ms. Hughes acknowledged that her actions were wrong and that she acted outside of her scope of practice. At the informal conference, Ms. Hughes stated that if she could do the situation over again she would have explored other options, tried to contact the hospitalist, or repeatedly paged the physician. Ms. Hughes stated that she acted on emotions, and in her opinion, the best interest of the patient. Ms. Hughes was remorseful and expressed embarrassment and regret for the decisions she made.

6. Ms. Hughes' employment with Mary Washington Healthcare was terminated on April 8, 2015.

7. Ms. Hughes is currently employed at Sentara Healthcare, Woodbridge, Virginia. Ms. Hughes stated that she began working at Sentara in June 2015, and that her supervisor is aware of the pending allegations before the Board of Nursing.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Finding of Fact No. 3 constitutes a violation of §54.1-3007(2), (5) and (8) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(a), (e) and (f) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing.

**ORDER**


WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. Elaine Hughes, R.N., is hereby REPRIMANDED.
2. Ms. Hughes 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. Hughes may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on March 21, 2016, notify Jay P. 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, in writing that he/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.

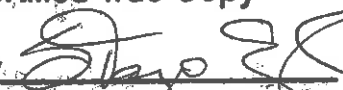
FOR THE BOARD:

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

ENTERED: February 17, 2016

This Order shall become final on March 21, 2016, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

Certified True Copy

By   
Virginia Board of Nursing