

**VIRGINIA:**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE: SARA HESS, R.N.  
License No.: 0001-201578**

**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 22, 2015 in Henrico County, Virginia. Ms. Hess was not present nor was she represented by legal counsel. Jane Elliott, R.N., Ph.D., 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. Hess 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. Sara Hess, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-201578 to practice professional nursing in Virginia on June 26, 2006. Said license expired on May 31, 2014. Ms. Hess' primary state of residence is Virginia.

2. By letter dated September 23, 2015, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Hess notifying her that an informal conference would be held on October 22, 2015. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 1030 Gardenview Loop, Unit 204, Woodbridge, Virginia, 22191, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing. Both the Notice sent by certified mail and the Notice sent by first class mail were returned to the Board office marked "return to sender, unable to forward." The Agency Subordinate concluded that adequate notice was

provided to Ms. Hess and the informal conference proceeded in her absence.

3. By an Order of the Board entered August 1, 2011 (“Board’s Order”), The Board took no action against Ms. Hess’ license to practice professional nursing contingent upon her re-entry into and compliance with the Health Practitioners’ Monitoring Program (“HPMP”). This Order was based on findings that Ms. Hess had diverted narcotic medications from Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C., in 2007, and that she was dismissed from the HPMP on April 29, 2011.

4. Term No. 1 of the Board’s Order required that Ms. Hess re-enter into the HPMP within 60 days of entry of the order. Thereafter, Ms. Hess was to remain compliant with all terms and conditions of the HPMP. Ms. Hess failed to re-renter into the HPMP.

5. On August 19, 2015, during an interview with an investigator for the Virginia Department of Health Professions, Ms. Hess stated that she is currently employed as a phlebotomist with Lab Corp and that she is current prescribed Suboxone (C-III) for substance abuse, Adderall (C-II) for ADHD, and Lyrica.

#### CONCLUSIONS 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. Sara Hess, R.N., is hereby REPRIMANDED.
2. The right of Ms. Hess to renew License No. 0001-201578 to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia is hereby INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED.
3. At such time as Ms. Hess shall petition the Board for reinstatement of her license, an administrative proceeding will be convened to determine whether she is capable of resuming the safe and competent practice of professional nursing. Ms. Hess shall be responsible for any fees that may be


required for the reinstatement and renewal of the license prior to issuance of the license to resume practice.

4. This Order shall be applicable to Ms. Hess' multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice professional nursing.

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.

Since Ms. Hess failed to appear at the informal conference, this Order shall be considered final. Ms. Hess has the right to appeal this Order directly to the appropriate Virginia circuit court. As provided by Rule 2A:2 of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Ms. Hess has thirty (30) days from the date of service (the date she actually received this decision or the date it was mailed to her, whichever occurred first) within which to appeal this decision by filing a Notice of Appeal with Jay P. Douglas, M.S.M., R.N., C.S.A.C., F.R.E., Executive Director, Board of Nursing, at Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Richmond, Virginia 23233. In the event that this decision is served by mail, three (3) days are added to that period.

FOR THE BOARD

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

Entered: February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016

Certified True Copy

By   
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Virginia Board Of Nursing