

**VIRGINIA:**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE:        SHEILA D. VIPPERMAN, R.N.**  
**License No.: 0001-136663**

**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 June 30, 2015, in Henrico County, Virginia. Sheila D. Vipperman, R.N., was not present nor was she 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 September 16, 2015, a quorum of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. Ms. Vipperman 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.        Sheila D. Vipperman, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-136663 to practice professional nursing in Virginia on March 15, 1994. The license expired on March 31, 2015. Her primary state of residence is Virginia.

2.        By letter dated June 3, 2015, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Vipperman notifying her that an informal conference would be held on June 30, 2015. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 1539 Halifax Road, Danville, Virginia 24540, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing. The Notice was also sent to 315 South Main Street, Apt. 109, Chatham, Virginia, a secondary address. The certified mail sent to the address of record was

returned to the Board office marked “attempted – not known.” The certified mail sent to the secondary address was returned to the Board office marked “unable to forward.” The Notice sent by first class mail was not returned to the Board office. The Agency Subordinate concluded that adequate notice was provided to Ms. Vipperman and the informal conference proceeded in her absence.

3. On August 11, 2014, during the course of her employment with Med Express, Danville, Virginia, Ms. Vipperman created and called in a fraudulent prescription for 30 tablets of Lorcet 10/650 (hydrocodone/APAP, Schedule II) for her personal and unauthorized use.

4. On August 11, 2014, Ms. Vipperman resigned from employment with Med Express in lieu of termination.

5. On August 25, 2014, Ms. Vipperman entered into a Participation Contract with the Health Practitioners’ Monitoring Program. She was diagnosed with opioid dependence with physiological dependence. Ms. Vipperman was dismissed from the program on January 26, 2015, for non-compliance after she failed to enter a substance abuse treatment program.

6. On December 3, 2014, during an interview with an investigator from the Department of Health Professions (“DHP”), Ms. Vipperman admitted that she is addicted to narcotics. Ms. Vipperman stated to the HPMP case manager and the DHP investigator that she did not have the money to enter a substance abuse treatment program.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Finding of Fact No. 3 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(2) and (5) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended (“Code”), and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(a) and (c) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing.

2. Findings of Fact Nos. 5 and 6 constitute a violation of § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code.

**ORDER**

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. The right of Sheila D. Vipperman, R.N., to renew License No. 0001-136663 to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia is hereby INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED.
2. The license will be recorded as suspended and no longer current.
3. At such time as Ms. Vipperman 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. Vipperman 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 suspension applies to any multistate privilege to practice professional nursing.
5. This suspension shall be STAYED upon proof of re-entry into the HPMP pursuant to Chapter 25.1 of Title 54.1 of the Code and 18 VAC 76-10-10 *et seq.* of the Regulations Governing the HPMP. At such time, the indefinite suspension shall be STAYED and the following terms and conditions shall apply:
  - a. Ms. Vipperman shall comply with all terms and conditions for the period specified by the HPMP.
  - b. Any violation of the terms and conditions stated in this Order shall be reason for summarily rescinding the stay of indefinite suspension of the license of Sheila D. Vipperman, R.N., and an administrative proceeding shall be held to determine whether her license shall be revoked. The stay of indefinite suspension may be summarily rescinded at such time the Board is notified that:
    - i. Ms. Vipperman is not in compliance with the terms and conditions specified by the HPMP;

- ii. Ms. Vipperman's participation in the HPMP has been terminated;
- iii. There is a pending investigation or unresolved allegation against Ms.

Vipperman involving a violation of law, regulation, or any term or condition of this order.

6. Upon receipt of evidence of Ms. Vipperman's participation and successful completion of the HPMP, the Board, at its discretion, may waive Ms. Vipperman's appearance before a Committee and conduct an administrative review of this matter, at which time she may be issued an unrestricted license.

7. This Order is applicable to Ms. Vipperman's multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice professional nursing. For the duration of this Order, Ms. Vipperman 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 she wishes to work. Any requests for out of state employment should be directed, in writing, to the Executive Director of the Board.

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. Vipperman failed to appear at the informal conference, this Order shall be considered final. Ms. Vipperman 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. Vipperman 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

*Gloria Mitchell-Lively*  
for Jay P. Douglas, M.S.M., R.N., C.S.A.C., F.R.E.  
Executive Director  
Virginia Board of Nursing

Entered: *September 29, 2015*

Certified True Copy

By *Star E*  
Virginia Board of Nursing