

**VIRGINIA:**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE:                    SUSAN M. BECK, R.N. REINSTATEMENT APPLICANT**

**ORDER**

Pursuant to §§ 2.2-4020, 54.1-110 and 54.1-2400(11) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code"), a formal administrative hearing was held before a panel of the Board of Nursing ("Board") on July 22, 2009, in Henrico County, Virginia, to receive and act upon Susan M. Beck's application for reinstatement of her license to practice professional nursing in Virginia and to inquire into evidence that Ms. Beck may have violated certain laws and regulations governing nursing practice in Virginia. The case was presented by Anne Glick Joseph, Deputy Director, Administrative Proceedings Division. Howard M. Casway, Senior Assistant Attorney General, was present as legal counsel for the Board. Ms. Beck was not present and was not represented by legal counsel. The proceedings were recorded by a certified court reporter.

Upon consideration of the evidence presented, the Board adopted the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Susan M. Beck was issued License No. 0001-133866 to practice professional nursing by the Board of Nursing on September 15, 1993. Said license was suspended by Consent Order of the Board entered March 23, 2004. Ms. Beck submitted an application for reinstatement of her license dated September 8, 2008.

2. Based upon representations of Ms. Joseph, Deputy Director of the Administrative Proceedings Division, and Commonwealth Exhibits 1, 2, and 2A, the presiding officer ruled that Ms. Beck was provided with adequate notice of the proceedings and the hearing proceeded in her absence.

3. The suspension of Ms. Beck's license was based on findings that she had diverted methadone (Schedule II) and Demerol (meperedine, Schedule II) during the course of her employment at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital in Alexandria, Virginia. In addition, even while receiving treatment for substance abuse, Ms. Beck had continued to consume alcohol. She entered into the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program (formerly, the Health Practitioners' Intervention Program) but was dismissed for noncompliance.

4. Ms. Beck is unable to safely practice professional nursing due to mental illness, for which she has been hospitalized, and substance abuse. By her own admission to an investigator for the Department of Health Professions on October 28, 2008, she has not received any treatment for substance abuse since her license was suspended in 2004 for acknowledged diversion of narcotic pain medications for her own personal and unauthorized use, and she continues to consume alcohol and take over-the-counter Benadryl (diphenhydramine) for anxiety in addition to prescribed medications.

5. Ms. Beck was evaluated by the Farley Center, Williamsburg, Va., in 2007 but refused to authorize the release of the evaluation to the Board.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The Board concludes that finding of Fact No. 4 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code.

#### **ORDER**

WHEREFORE, the Virginia Board of Nursing, effective upon entry of this Order, hereby ORDERS as follows:


1. The application of Susan M. Beck for reinstatement of her license to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia is hereby DENIED.

2. The license is hereby CONTINUED on INDEFINITE SUSPENSION for a period of not less than two years.

3. Should Ms. Beck seek reinstatement of her license consistent with this Order, she shall be responsible for any fees that may be required for the reinstatement of her license prior to issuance of her license to resume practice.

4. At such time as Ms. Beck shall petition the Board for reinstatement of her license, a hearing will be convened to determine whether she is able to return to the safe and competent practice of professional nursing.

Pursuant to §§ 2.2-4023 and 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 public record and shall be made available for public inspection or copying on request.

FOR THE BOARD  
  
Jay P. Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C.  
Executive Director  
Virginia Board of Nursing  
July 28, 2009  
ENTERED

**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 P. Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C., Executive Director, Board of Nursing, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Richmond, 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.

