

**VIRGINIA:**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE:       TAFFY CONNORS, R.N.  
              License No.: 0001-156032**

**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 15, 2015, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Taffy Connors, R.N., may have violated certain laws and regulations governing nursing practice in Virginia. The case was presented by Amanda E. M. Blount, Adjudication Specialist, Administrative Proceedings Division. Charis A. Mitchell, Assistant Attorney General, was present as legal counsel for the Board. Ms. Connors 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. Taffy Connors, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-156032 to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia on September 16, 1997. Said license expired on October 31, 2013. Her primary state of residence is Virginia.
2. Based on the representations of Amanda E. M. Blount, Adjudication Specialist, and Commonwealth's Exhibit #1, the Notice of Formal Hearing and Statement of Particulars and Affidavit of Mailing dated June 23, 2015, and the Allegation Summary Worksheet, the presiding officer ruled that adequate notice was provided to Ms. Connors and the hearing proceeded in her absence.
3. During her employment at Inova Fairfax Hospital and Inova Alexandria Hospital, as a "float nurse" from February 2013, until April 2013, Ms. Connors diverted Dilaudid (hydromorphone, C-II) and

methadone (C-II) for her own use as evidenced by the following:

a. A pharmacy audit at Inova Fairfax Hospital dated February 10, 2013 – March 12, 2013, revealed the following instances in which, after administering narcotic medications to patients, Ms. Connors failed to account for the remaining narcotics:

i. After administering 49 doses of hydromorphone 0.4mg to Patient A, which is dispensed in 1mg vials, Ms. Connors documented wasting 0.6mg one time. She failed to account for 28.8mg of hydromorphone.

ii. After administering four doses of hydromorphone 0.7mg to Patient B, Ms. Connors documented wasting 0.3mg of hydromorphone three times. She failed to account for 0.3mg of hydromorphone.

iii. Patient C's order for methadone (C-II) in the form of 2mg/ml oral solution 5mg was discontinued on March 5, 2013, before Ms. Connors began her nursing shift. Nevertheless, Ms. Connors documented administering methadone oral solution to this patient two times after that date. In addition, she failed to account for two 5mg doses of 2mg/ml methadone oral solution 5mg.

b. A pharmacy audit at Inova Alexandria Hospital revealed the following instances occurring on April 28, 2013, in which after administering hydromorphone to patients, Ms. Connors failed to account for the remaining hydromorphone:

i. Patient D was ordered hydromorphone 0.5mg. Ms. Connors documented administering three doses. She failed to document any wasting of the remaining 1.5mg of hydromorphone.

ii. Patient E was ordered hydromorphone 0.5mg. Ms. Connors documented administering three doses. She failed to document wasting 0.5mg per dose, for a total of 1.5mg of hydromorphone.

iii. Patient F was ordered hydromorphone 0.5mg. Ms. Connors

documented administering eight doses. She documented wasting 0.5mg of hydromorphone three times. She failed to account for 2.5mg of hydromorphone.

4. Ms. Connors did not show for two scheduled meetings with Inova Health System to discuss the above-reverenced concerns regarding her practice. Thereafter, her employment was terminated on May 9, 2013.

5. On September 19, 2013, Ms. Connors was requested to submit to a urine drug screen by an investigator for the Virginia Department of Health Professions, but she failed to submit a specimen for screening.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Board concludes that Findings of Fact Nos. 3(a)(i), 3(a)(ii), 3(a)(iii), 3(b)(i), 3(b)(ii), and 3(b)(iii) constitute violations of § 54.1-3007(2), (5) and (6) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(c) and (e) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing.

### ORDER

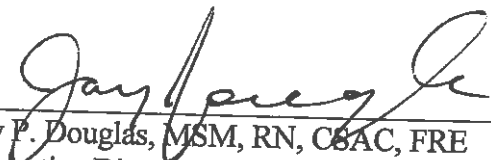
WHEREFORE, the Virginia Board of Nursing, effective upon entry of this Order, hereby ORDERS as follows:

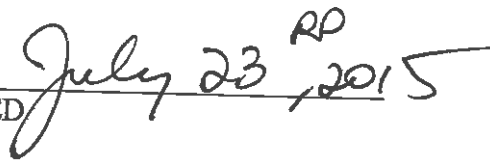
1. The right of Taffy Connors to renew License No. 0001-156032 to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia is hereby INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED.
2. The license will be recorded as SUSPENDED and no longer current. Should Ms. Connors seek reinstatement of her license consistent with this 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.
3. At such time as Ms. Connors shall petition the Board for reinstatement of her license, an administrative proceeding will be convened to determine whether she is able to return to the safe and competent practice of professional nursing.

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

  
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Jay P. Douglas, MSM, RN, CSAC, FRE  
Executive Director  
Virginia Board of Nursing

  
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, MSM, RN, CSAC, FRE, 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   
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Virginia Board Of Nursing