

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF THE JOINT BOARDS OF NURSING AND MEDICINE

**IN RE: MEGAN A. PEDERSEN, L.N.P.
License No.: 0024-170259
Authorization to Prescribe No.: 0017-140655**

CONSENT ORDER

Pursuant to §§ 2.2-4019, 2.2-4021 and 54.1-2400(10) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code"), an informal conference was held before a Special Conference Committee ("Committee") of the Committee of the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine ("Committee of the Joint Boards") on December 10, 2014 in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Megan A. Pedersen, L.N.P., may have violated certain laws and regulations governing nurse practitioner practice in Virginia. Ms. Pedersen was not present and was not represented by legal counsel.

By letters dated March 11 and May 8, 2015, the Board noticed Ms. Pedersen for a formal hearing. In lieu of proceeding to a formal hearing, the Board and Ms. Pedersen, as evidenced by their signatures affixed below, agree to enter into this Consent Order affecting the license of Ms. Pedersen to practice as a nurse practitioner in Virginia.

The Board adopts the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Megan A. Pedersen, L.N.P., was issued License No. 0024-170259 to practice as a nurse practitioner in the area of pediatrics on August 7, 2012. She was issued Authorization to Prescribe No. 0017-140655 on August 22, 2012. Said license and authorization are scheduled to expire on September 30, 2015.
2. By letter dated November 13, 2014, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Pedersen notifying her that an informal conference would be held on

December 10, 2014. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 909 Jefferson Circle, Martinsville, Virginia 24112, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing. The Notice sent by certified mail was returned unclaimed to the Board office. The Notice sent by first class mail was not returned to the Board office. Ms. Pedersen contacted Board staff by telephone on December 4, 2014, indicating that she was moving out of state and would not be able to attend the informal conference. The Committee Chair concluded that adequate notice was provided to Ms. Pedersen and the informal conference proceeded in her absence.

3. Ms. Pedersen entered into a Participation Contract with the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP") on November 17, 2013, wherein she acknowledged being unable to safely practice due to chemical dependency and mental health issues. She entered into a Recovery Monitoring Contract on January 27, 2014. Her initial diagnosis included opioid dependence and major depressive disorder. She had entered the HPMP upon referral by the South Carolina Board of Nursing in connection with allegations of prescription fraud.

4. Ms. Pedersen was dismissed from the HPMP on May 6, 2014, due to the following noncompliance:

a. On February 19, 2014, she tested positive for alcohol, and she admitted drinking on January 17 and February 14, 2014.

b. She failed to report prescriptions for Vyvanse, Adderall, and Xanax.

c. She continued to use Tramadol.

d. She failed to attend substance abuse treatment and 12-Step meetings as required.

5. Ms. Pedersen has advised that in December 2014, she voluntarily entered an inpatient detoxification and rehabilitation program in North Carolina. She provided documentation of her completion of the treatment program.

6. Ms. Pedersen also advised that she has continued an intensive outpatient program including regularly attending AA/NA meetings and Caduceus meetings; attending individual and family counseling appointments; and participating in peer group and recovery group meetings. Ms. Pedersen is also seeking admission into the Massachusetts Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program ("SARP").

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Findings of Fact Nos. 3 and 4 constitute a violation of § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-220(4) and (5) of the Regulations Governing the Licensure of Nurse Practitioners.

CONSENT

Megan A. Pedersen, L.N.P., by affixing her signature hereon, agrees to the following:

1. She has been advised to seek advice of counsel prior to signing this document and is represented by Anisa P. Kelley, Esq.;
2. She acknowledges that without her consent, no legal action can be taken against her except pursuant to the Virginia Administrative Process Act, § 2.2-4000(A) *et seq.* of the Code;
3. She acknowledges that she has the following rights, among others: the right to a formal fact finding hearing before the Committee of the Joint Boards, the right to reasonable notice of said hearing, the right to representation by counsel, and the right to cross-examine witnesses against her;
4. She waives all such right to a formal hearing;
5. She admits to the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained herein and waives her right to contest such Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in any subsequent proceeding before the Committee of the Joint Boards;
6. She consents to the entry of the following Order affecting her license to practice as a nurse practitioner and her authorization to prescribe in Virginia.

ORDER

WHEREFORE, on the basis of the foregoing, the Virginia Committee of the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine, effective upon entry of this Order, and in lieu of further proceedings, hereby ORDERS as follows:

1. License No. 0024-170259 and Authorization to Prescribe No. 0017-140655 of Megan A. Pedersen, L.N.P., are INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED.
2. The license and authorization to prescribe will be recorded as suspended and no longer current.
3. At such time as Ms. Pedersen shall petition the Committee of the Joint Boards for reinstatement of her license and/or authorization to prescribe, an administrative proceeding will be convened to determine whether she is capable of resuming safe and competent nurse practitioner practice. Ms. Pedersen shall be responsible for any fees that may be required for the reinstatement and renewal of the license and authorization to prescribe prior to their issuance to resume practice.
4. This suspension shall be STAYED upon proof of Ms. Pedersen's entry into the Massachusetts Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program ("SARP") or the Virginia Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP"). At such time, the indefinite suspension shall be STAYED and the following terms and conditions shall apply:
 - a. Ms. Pedersen shall comply with all terms and conditions for the period specified by the SARP or 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 Megan A. Pedersen, L.N.P., 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. Pedersen is not in compliance with the terms and conditions specified by the SARP or HPMP;
- ii. Ms. Pedersen's participation in the SARP or HPMP has been terminated;
- iii. There is a pending investigation or unresolved allegation against Ms. Pedersen involving a violation of law, regulation, or any term or condition of this Order.

5. Upon receipt of evidence of Ms. Pedersen's participation and successful completion of the SARP or HPMP, the Committee of the Joint Boards, at its discretion, may waive Ms. Pedersen's appearance at an administrative proceeding and conduct an administrative review of this matter, at which time she may be issued an unrestricted license.

6. Ms. Pederson shall provide the Committee of the Joint Boards with a copy of her enrollment contract with the SARP and the program and/or Ms. Pedersen shall provide quarterly reports to the Committee of the Joint Boards until Ms. Pedersen is discharged from the program. The Committee of the Joint Boards may require Ms. Pedersen to provide additional information as the Committee of the Joint Boards deems necessary to determine her compliance with the terms of her Consent Agreement for SARP Participation ("CASP"), and Ms. Pedersen shall comply with such requests.


7. Ms. Pederson shall execute an Authorization for Disclosure of Information form providing for unrestricted communication between the Committee of the Joint Boards and the Massachusetts Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program.

8. At the end of the period specified in her CASP, Ms. Pedersen shall provide to the Committee of the Joint Boards a report documenting her successful completion of CASP. The Committee of the Joint Boards may require Ms. Pedersen to provide additional information as the Committee of the Joint Boards deems necessary to determine her compliance with the terms of her CASP, and Ms. Pedersen shall comply with any such request.

9. Ms. Pedersen shall maintain a course of conduct in her capacity as a nurse practitioner commensurate with the requirements of §§ 54.1-2957 and 54.1-3000 *et seq.* of the Code, the Regulations Governing the Licensure of Nurse Practitioners and the Board of Nursing Regulations.

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 upon request.

FOR THE COMMITTEE OF THE JOINT BOARDS


Louise Hershkowitz, CRNA, MSHA, Chair
Virginia Committee of the Joint Boards of
Nursing and Medicine

ENTERED: 6/10/15

SEEN AND AGREED TO:


Megan A. Pedersen, L.N.P.



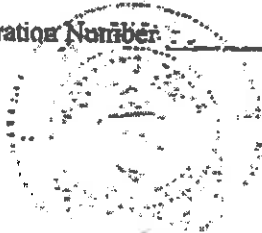
SEAN ENGLISH
Notary Public
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
My Commission Expires April 17, 2020

STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS,
COUNTY/CITY OF Franklin, TO WIT:

Subscribed and sworn to before me, Sean English, a Notary Public, this 5th day of June, 2015.

My commission expires 4/17/20

Registration Number: N/A




NOTARY PUBLIC

Certified True Copy

By Drabem
Virginia Board Of Nursing