

**VIRGINIA:**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE:**

**SARAH MARIE WRIGHT, R.N.**

**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 28, 2009, in Henrico County, Virginia. Sarah Marie Wright, R.N., was present and was not 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, 2010, a quorum of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. Ms. Wright 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. Sarah Marie Wright, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-198198 to practice as a professional nurse in Virginia on September 9, 2005. The license is current and will expire on August 31, 2011.
2. By letter dated September 25, 2009, the Board sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Wright notifying her that an Informal Conference would be held on October 28, 2009. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 7216 Lensfield Court, Alexandria, Virginia 22315, the address of record on file with the Board.
3. From May 13, 2008, through August 12, 2008, Ms. Wright was employed in the psychiatric unit at Dominion Hospital, Falls Church, Virginia, where she worked in the medication room every other day. When assigned to the medication room, Ms. Wright was responsible for 25 patients. At the informal conference, Ms. Wright admitted to having difficulties using the hospital's electronic medication dispensing system and, as a result, at times administered medications to patients without scanning them. Ms. Wright also

admitted to having problems with documenting the administration and wastage of medications which had been dispensed for patients. Specifically:

a. She withdrew two Ativan 2 mg. (lorazepam – Schedule II) tablets on July 24, 2008, and July 25, 2008, when the order was for one tablet. Ms. Wright documented on the MAR the administration of one tablet.

b. Ms. Wright withdrew two Vicodin (hydrocodone/acetaminophen – Schedule III) tablets on July 25, 2008, and July 30, 2008, when the order was for one tablet.

c. On these occasions, Ms. Wright failed to document the administration or wastage of the second tablet. Ms. Wright admitted that at times she would set aside medications to be wasted, forget to waste them, and at the end of the day sweep those medications into the garbage.

d. Ms. Wright's employment was terminated on August 12, 2008, for misconduct related to her performance.

4. At the informal conference, Ms. Wright denied diversion of medications.

5. Ms. Wright is unable to safely practice professional nursing due to substance abuse and mental illness. At the informal conference, Ms. Wright provided medical records which confirmed her recent diagnosis of fibromyalgia and endometriosis, which had been the source of pain and stress for several years. Ms. Wright also acknowledged having psychological problems and being treated for depression. Ms. Wright saw a psychiatrist every three months for the past four years, discontinuing only because she lost her health insurance when her employment was terminated. Ms. Wright also attended counseling one time per week for the past two years, but similarly stopped counseling when she lost her health insurance. Ms. Wright has valid prescriptions for Percocet (oxycodone/acetaminophen – Schedule II), Atenolol, Clonazepam, and Cymbalta. Ms. Wright is currently working at Wal-Mart and is seeking to resume her counseling and psychiatric treatment.

6. At the informal conference, Ms. Wright stated that she was active in Celebrate Recovery, a Christian-based recovery program created for persons suffering from pain and addiction. Ms. Wright stated that

Celebrate Recovery is not a twelve-step recovery program. Ms. Wright attends three to four Celebrate Recovery meetings per month. Ms. Wright considers her mother as her sponsor in the program. Ms. Wright stated that she stopped drinking seven years ago, but relapsed in 2005. She stated at the informal conference that she considers herself “on the edge” of having an alcohol problem.

7. Ms. Wright has spoken with a representative from the Health Practitioners’ Monitoring Program (“HPMP”) but has not executed a Participation Contract.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Finding of Fact #5 constitutes a violation of §54.1-3007(6) of the Code.
2. Finding of Fact #3 constitutes a violation of §54.1-3007(2) and (5) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(2)(e) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing.

### ORDER

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. License No. 0001-198198 issued to Sarah Marie Wright, R.N., is INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED.
2. The license will be recorded as suspended and no longer current.
3. This suspension applies to any multistate privilege to practice professional nursing.
4. At such time as Ms. Wright 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. Wright 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.
5. This suspension shall be STAYED upon proof of Ms. Wright’s entry into the Health Practitioners’ Monitoring Program (“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. Wright 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 Ms. Wright, 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. Wright has failed to make application to the HPMP;
- ii. Ms. Wright is not in compliance with the terms and conditions specified by the HPMP;
- iii. Ms. Wright's participation in the HPMP has been terminated; or
- iv. There is a pending investigation or unresolved allegation against Ms. Wright involving a violation of law, regulation, or any term or condition of this order.

6. This Order is applicable to Ms. Wright's multi-state licensure privileges, if any, to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia. For the duration of this Order, Ms. Wright shall not work outside of the Commonwealth of Virginia pursuant to a multi-state licensure privilege without the written permission of the Virginia Board of Nursing and the Board of Nursing in the party state where Ms. Wright wishes to work. Any requests for out of state employment should be directed, in writing, to the Executive Director of the Board.

7. Ms. Wright shall maintain a course of conduct in her capacity as a professional nurse commensurate with the requirements of §54.1-3000 *et seq.* of the Code and Regulations.

This Order is subject to appeal to the Board. If Ms. Wright desires a formal administrative hearing before the Board pursuant to §§2.2-4020 and 2.2-4021 of the Code, she must notify Jay P. Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C., Executive Director, Board of Nursing, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Richmond, Virginia 23233, in writing, within thirty-three (33) days from the date of service of this Order. Upon the filing of a request for the hearing with the Executive Director, this Order shall be vacated.

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.

FOR THE BOARD

*Jay P. Douglas*  
for Jay P. Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C.  
Executive Director  
Board of Nursing

Entered: February 5, 2010

**Certified True Copy**  
By *dgraham*  
**Virginia Board of Nursing**