

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE:

LOIS BETH LAUGHLIN, R.N.

(A.K.A. LOIS BETH McLAUGHLIN, R.N.)

ORDER

Pursuant to § 9-6.14:11 and §54.1-3010 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended (the "Code"), a Special Conference Committee of the Board of Nursing met on June 4, 1993, to receive and act upon evidence that Lois Beth Laughlin, R.N., may have violated certain laws and regulations governing the practice of professional nursing in Virginia. Ms. Laughlin was present and was represented by Elaine Weitzman, Esquire. Upon consideration of the evidence presented, the Board adopted the following Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Lois Beth Laughlin, R.N., holds License No. 0001-086691, issued by the Virginia Board of Nursing.
2. During the course of Ms. Laughlin's employment with Sentara Norfolk General Hospital, Norfolk, Virginia, by her own admission to the Head Nurse on May 13, 1992, she diverted various quantities of Stadol (butorphanol), a Schedule VI controlled substance, for her personal and unauthorized use. On no less than twelve occasions between March 10, 1992, and May 13, 1992, Ms. Laughlin diverted Stadol by requesting it on General Charge Vouchers in the names of patients for whom no Stadol was ordered, or to whom Stadol was never administered.
2. On June 3, 1993, in the Circuit Court of the City of

Norfolk, Ms. Laughlin pleaded guilty to and was convicted of five (5) counts of prescription fraud. Ms. Laughlin was sentenced to five (5) years of probation, with three (3) years of the probation to be supervised, and one of the three years' supervision to be at the discretion of the probation officer; a \$1000.00 fine; ten (10) years in jail, suspended; and forty hours of community service.

3. Ms. Laughlin entered chemical dependency treatment on May 14, 1992, at Maryview Hospital, Portsmouth, Virginia, for twelve days, and thereafter participated in the outpatient "Turning Point" aftercare program. She has undergone monthly random, observed urine drug screens which have all yielded negative results.
4. Ms. Laughlin states her date of sobriety is May 15, 1992.
5. Ms. Laughlin states she attends Alcoholics Anonymous two to three times a week, Caduceus once a week, and a women's recovery group once a week. She has an Alcoholics Anonymous sponsor.
6. Ms. Laughlin sees Dr. Michael E. Bohan, Virginia Beach, Virginia, her physician monitor, on a quarterly basis, and is in compliance with his recommendations.
7. Ms. Laughlin is currently employed as a professional nurse at the Jones Institute, Hampton Roads, Virginia. Her employer is aware of her recovery and is supportive.
8. On June 4, 1992, Ms. Laughlin signed a PACDN contract; she was advised in approximately April, 1993, that the Virginia Beach area PACDN had dissolved.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

Based upon the forgoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes that Lois Beth Laughlin, R.N., has violated § 54.1-3007(2) and (5) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, and § 4.1(B)(3) and (5) of the Virginia Board of Nursing Regulations.

ORDER

On the basis of the foregoing, the Virginia Board of Nursing, effective upon entry of this Order, hereby ORDERS that License No. 0001-086691, issued to Lois Beth Laughlin, R.N., to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia, be placed on probation subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. The period of probation shall begin on the date that this Order is final and shall end upon completion of two (2) years of employment as a Registered Nurse.
2. All written reports required by this Order shall be sent to the Board office with the first report being received no later than thirty (30) days following the date that this Order is final. Subsequent reports must be received quarterly by the last day of the months of March, June, September and December until the period of probation ends.
3. Ms. Laughlin shall inform her nursing employer and each future nursing employer that the Board has placed her license on probation and shall provide her employer with a copy of this Order. If, at any time, Ms. Laughlin is employed through a staffing agency, she shall inform her supervisor in each facility where assigned that her license is on probation.

4. Ms. Laughlin shall practice nursing only in a structured, supervised employment setting satisfactory to the Board for one (1) year. Before changing employment, Ms. Laughlin shall request that her prospective employer provide a written description of the structured, supervised employment setting to the Board office for approval.
5. Ms. Laughlin shall inform the Board in writing within ten (10) days of any change of employment including the name and address of the new employer as well as the date she began employment. Ms. Laughlin shall inform the Board in writing within ten (10) days of any interruption in nursing practice.
6. Ms. Laughlin shall direct her nursing employer to provide written nursing performance evaluations to the Board as stated in term number 2.
7. Ms. Laughlin shall not administer any Schedule II through V Controlled Substances or Stadol and Nubain, Schedule VI Controlled Substances, for the first nine (9) months of employment as a Registered Nurse.
8. Ms. Laughlin shall continue in treatment until discharged and will direct the therapist to provide the Board with a written progress report as stated in term number 2. The therapist shall provide a written discharge summary when appropriate. Ms. Laughlin shall provide the therapist with a copy of this Order and authorize the therapist to communicate with the Board's representatives concerning her progress.

9. Ms. Laughlin shall direct the therapist to notify the Board if she withdraws from the treatment program before being discharged.
10. Ms. Laughlin shall be required to have supervised, unannounced drug screens and have all results sent to the Board as stated in term number 2. The Board shall be notified immediately in writing of any positive results or if Ms. Laughlin refuses to give a specimen for analysis as required by this Order.
11. Ms. Laughlin shall continue to be active in Alcoholics Anonymous and Caduceus with written reports of attendance by a sponsor sent to the Board as stated in term number 2.
12. Ms. Laughlin shall not use alcohol and other mood altering chemicals except as prescribed by a physician with whom she has established a genuine physician/patient relationship and for accepted medicinal or therapeutic purposes. Should she be prescribed any medication such as a narcotic, depressant, tranquilizer, analgesic or stimulant, a written report from the prescribing physician shall be provided to the Board within ten (10) days of the date of the prescription.
13. Ms. Laughlin shall request her probation officer to provide the Board with a written report describing how she is meeting the conditions of her probation as stated in term number 2.
14. Ms. Laughlin shall provide the Board with a certified true copy of her Final Order placed on record by the

Court upon completion of probation.

15. Written reports shall be provided by Ms. Laughlin which will include her current address and current employment, if any. These reports shall be sent to the Board office as stated in term number 2.
16. Ms. Laughlin shall return all copies of her current license to practice professional nursing to the Board office within ten (10) days of the date of entry of this Order. Upon receipt of the old license and a \$10.00 fee, the Board shall issue a new license marked PROBATION WITH TERMS.
17. Ms. Laughlin, as a Registered Nurse, shall conduct herself in compliance with the requirements of Title 54.1, Chapter 30 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, and the Board of Nursing Regulations.

Any violation of the terms and conditions stated in this Order shall be reason for revoking the license of Ms. Laughlin, and a hearing shall be held to decide whether her license shall be revoked.

The Board shall issue an unrestricted license to Ms. Laughlin without a hearing at the completion of the probationary period unless there is a pending investigation or unresolved allegation involving a violation of law, regulation or any term or condition of probation. In that event, the period of probation shall be continued indefinitely or until such time as the Board makes a case decision in accordance with the Administrative Process Act, § 9-6.14:1 et seq. of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

Pursuant to § 9-6.14:14 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, 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 inspections or copying on request.

If Ms. Laughlin does not consent to the committee's decision and desires a hearing before the Board or a panel thereof, she shall notify Corinne F. Dorsey, R.N., Executive Director, Board of Nursing, 6606 W. Broad Street, Fourth Floor, Richmond, Virginia 23230-1717 within thirty-three (33) days from the date of entry of this Order. This Order shall become final upon the expiration of the thirty-three-day period unless a request for a formal hearing is received within such time. Upon receiving timely request for a hearing, the Board or panel thereof shall then proceed with a hearing as provided in §9-6.14:12 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

FOR THE BOARD

Corinne F. Dorsey
Corinne F. Dorsey, R.N.
Executive Director

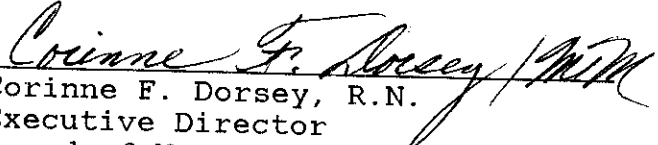
June 18, 1993
ENTERED

Received: June 19, 1993

By: Bernard L. Henderson, Jr.
Bernard L. Henderson, Jr., Director
Department of Health Professions

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing order was mailed to Lois Beth Laughlin, R.N., at 3224 E. Ocean View Avenue, Norfolk, Virginia, 23518 on the 22nd of June, 1993.


Corinne F. Dorsey, R.N.
Executive Director
Board of Nursing