

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: DIANA D. PALMER, R.N.

ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION

Pursuant to § 54.1-110 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, a quorum of the Board of Nursing (the "Board") met by telephone conference call on March 23, 1995, after a good faith effort to convene a regular meeting of the Board had failed. The purpose of the meeting was to receive and act upon evidence indicating that Diana D. Palmer, R.N., may have violated certain laws and regulations relating to the practice of professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia, as more fully set forth in the Notice of Hearing and Statement of Particulars, which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein.

WHEREUPON, pursuant to its authority under § 54.1-3009 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, the Board concludes that a substantial danger to public health or safety warrants this action and ORDERS that the license of Diana D. Palmer, R.N., to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia be and hereby is SUSPENDED. It is further ORDERED that a hearing be convened forthwith to receive and act upon evidence in this cause and that the Executive Director of the Board shall be authorized to execute this Order and all other documents, notices and orders on behalf of the Board necessary to bring this matter to hearing.

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 inspection or copying on request.

FOR THE BOARD

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

Entered: March 29, 1995

Received: March 29, 1995

By: John W. Hasty
John W. Hasty, Director
Department of Health Professions

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a certified true copy of the foregoing Order was mailed on this day to Diana D. Palmer, R.N. at 435 North Juniper Avenue, Highland Springs, Virginia 23075 and 7314 Three Chopt Road, Richmond, Virginia 23226.

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

March 30, 1995
DATE

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: DIANA D. PALMER, R.N.

NOTICE OF HEARING AND STATEMENT OF PARTICULARS

Please take notice that a formal administrative hearing pursuant to § 9-6.14:12 and § 54.1-110 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, (the "Code") will be held on May 22, 1995, at 1:00 p.m., to act upon evidence that Diana D. Palmer, R.N., has violated certain laws and regulations relating to the practice of professional nursing as more fully set forth below. The hearing will be held at the Department of Health Professions, 6606 West Broad Street, Fourth Floor, Richmond, Virginia.

At the hearing you have the following rights, among others: the right to be represented by counsel, the right to have witnesses subpoenaed and to present witnesses on your behalf, the right to present documentary evidence and the right to cross-examine adverse witnesses. If you desires any witnesses to appear on your behalf, notify the Executive Director of the Board of Nursing, 6606 West Broad Street, Fourth Floor, Richmond, Virginia 23230-1717, giving their names and addresses, at least fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the hearing in order that subpoenas may be issued.

The purpose of the Hearing is to receive and act upon evidence that you may have violated certain laws and regulations governing the practice of nursing in Virginia, as more fully set forth in the Statement of Particulars below.

STATEMENT OF PARTICULARS

The Board alleges that Diana D. Palmer, R.N., has violated § 54.1-3007(2), (3), (5), (6), and (8) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, and § 4.1B(3) of the Board of Nursing Regulations, in that:

1. By Consent Order entered March 24, 1987, Ms. Palmer's license to practice professional nursing was placed on probation due to her diversion of certain schedule II controlled substances. Subsequently, by Consent Order entered September 6, 1988, Ms. Palmer's license was suspended due to her diversion of certain schedule II controlled substances. By Consent Order entered January 30, 1991, Ms. Palmer's license was reinstated on probation. By Order entered March 24, 1993, Ms. Palmer was successfully terminated from probation and issued an unrestricted license to practice nursing.

2. During the course of her employment with Stuart Circle Hospital, Richmond, Virginia:

- a. On February 26, 1995, at 2400, Ms. Palmer signed out 30ml Tylenol with codeine for Patient A; however, she documented administering the controlled substance at 0200 in the nursing notes.
- b. On March 1, 1995, at approximately 8:00 p.m., Ms. Palmer failed to attend to Patient A, who was assigned to her care, when the patient self-extubated his tracheostomy tube. In fact, when she was paged to attend to the patient, she failed to respond and failed to check on


this patient during the approximate 30 minute time frame it took co-workers to stabilize him.

- c. On March 1, 1995, at approximately 8:00 p.m., Ms. Palmer was observed removing medication from the locked narcotic box; however, she failed to sign out any medication in the narcotic log. A narcotic count conducted at 11:30 p.m., at the end of Ms. Palmer's shift, indicated a loss of one (1) 10mg Valium pre-filled syringe. An empty Valium syringe was found in Patient A's medication disposal box, and the outer cardboard container was found in the trash bag attached to Ms. Palmer medication cart. This patient did not have a current physician's order for Valium, and Ms. Palmer did not sign out the medication or document administering it to this patient.
- d. On March 1, 1994, at approximately 10:15 p.m., Ms. Palmer incorrectly programmed Patient B's intravenous pump in that, she programmed the pump to infuse morphine at a rate of 500 cc. per hour instead of the ordered 95cc. per hour.
- e. On March 1, 1995, Ms. Palmer was unable to perform her nursing duties with skill and safety to patient in that she exhibited slow and slurred speech; unsteady stance; appeared sleepy, confused, disorientated and distracted; was unable to appropriately prioritize patients needs; was unable to recall incidents which occurred during her shift; and could not be located on the unit for extended

periods of time. Ms. Palmer refused to submit to a urine drug screen when requested. As a result, her employment was terminated.

3. By her own admission, on February 28, and March 1, 1995, Ms. Palmer self-administered various amounts of Vicodin and Percocet while on duty. She admits that on March 1, 1995, at approximately 8:00 p.m., she realized she was "too impaired to drive home;" however, she continued to provide nursing care.

FOR THE BOARD



Corinne F. Dorsey, R.N.
Executive Director

ENTERED: March 29, 1995