VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE:

HUGH J. MCLINDEN, R.N.

ORDER

Pursuant to §§ 2.2-4020, 2.2-4021, 54.1-110 and 54.1-2400(11) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code"), a formal administrative hearing was held before the Board of Nursing ("Board") on November 15, 2006, in Henrico County, Virginia, to receive and act upon evidence that Hugh J. McLinden may have violated certain laws and regulations governing the practice of professional nursing in Virginia. The case was presented by Mykl D. Egan, Adjudication Specialist. Howard M. Casway, Senior Assistant Attorney General, was present as legal counsel for the Board. Mr. McLinden was present and was not represented by 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. Hugh J. McLinden was issued license number 0001-150700 to practice professional nursing in Virginia on September 19, 1996. Said license is current.
- During the course of his employment at INOVA Mount Vernon Hospital, Alexandria,
 Virginia ("INOVA Mt. Vernon"), Mr. McLinden failed to provide proper care for two patients. Specifically:
 - a. Between September 23 and 24, 2005, he was assigned to care for Patient A, who was suffering from a gastrointestinal bleed. The physician orders required monitoring of the patient's hemoglobin and hematocrit levels and if the hemoglobin

level fell below 9.0, the patient was to receive an immediate blood transfusion. Blood tests were performed at 8:09 p.m. and 9:50 p.m. on the 23rd which indicated hemoglobin levels of 8.9 and 8.2 respectively. Mr. McLinden did not, however, begin a blood transfusion on either occasion. At approximately 2:20 a.m. on the 24th the patient experienced an acute bleed resulting in the first transfusion being performed at approximately 2:30 a.m. The patient was rushed to the Critical Care Unit ("CCU") shortly afterwards. By his own admission, Mr. McLinden accepted responsibility for failure to transfuse the patient. As a result of the incident, Mr. McLinden was sent home immediately and his employment was terminated on September 30, 2005.

b. On September 15, 2005, Mr. McLinden was assigned to care for Patient B, who was admitted to his department at 12:30 a.m. Among the physician orders was an order for one dose of Digoxin (Schedule VI) immediately with another dose four hours later, and six units of fresh frozen plasma ("FFP") "now." The first blood transfusion did not begin until 4:45 a.m. because Mr. McLinden was attempting to get the patient's heart rate under control. When he was asked why the patient was supposed to receive six units of FFP Mr. McLinden could not give the reason. When the patient was admitted to his department, his heart rate was in the 120's and irregular; Mr. McLinden had to be prompted by other staff to address the rapid and irregular heartbeat. After contacting the attending physician, Mr. McLinden received orders to provide Cardizem (benzothiazepine, Schedule VI) to the patient to treat the irregular heartbeat. When preparing the Cardizem, he began to mix the

wrong size bag and he did not know how to operate the medication pump. Finally, when Mr. McLinden was asked why a second dose of Digoxin had not been administered after four hours, he replied that the Cardizem would be better for the patient. Mr. McLinden was then ordered to administer the second dose of Digoxin.

- 3. Mr. McLinden made multiple false statements on job applications. Specifically:
 - a. On his application for employment to INOVA Mt. Vernon dated May 27, 2004, he was asked to list his reasons for leaving his previous places of employment. Mr. McLinden did not state his reasons for leaving the Reston Hospital Association, Reston, Virginia ("Reston"), and the Virginia Hospital Center, Arlington, Virginia, which were that he had resigned from both positions after being involved in patient care issues. When interviewed by the Investigator with the Department of Health Professions, Mr. McLinden stated that he "forgot about it and did not want to elaborate about anything negative."
 - b. On his application for employment to Reston dated June 20, 2001, he was asked to list his reasons for leaving his previous places of employment. Mr. McLinden failed to list his reason for leaving INOVA Cameron Glen, Reston, Virginia, which was that he agreed to leave the facility due to an incident involving a patient on a respirator.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Board concludes that:

1. Finding of Fact #2(a-b) constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(2), (5) and (8) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(f) of the Board of Nursing Regulations.

2. Finding of Fact #3(a-b) constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(2) and (5) of the Code, and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(e) of the Board of Nursing Regulations.

ORDER

WHEREFORE, the Virginia Board of Nursing, effective upon entry of this Order, hereby ORDERS that License No. 0001-150700, issued to Hugh J. McLinden, to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia, be, and hereby is, REVOKED.

Upon entry of this Order, the license of Hugh J. McLinden will be recorded as revoked and no longer current. This order shall be applicable to Mr. McLinden's multistate licensure privileges. Consistent with the terms of this Order, should Mr. McLinden seek reinstatement of his license, he shall be responsible for any fees that may be required for the reinstatement and renewal of his license prior to issuance of his license to resume practice.

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.

As provided by Rule 2A:2 of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Mr. McLinden has thirty (30) days from the service date in which to appeal this decision by filing a Notice of Appeal with Jay P. Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C., Executive Director, Board of Nursing, 6603 West Broad Street, Fifth Floor, Richmond, Virginia 23230-1717. The service date shall be defined as the date Mr. McLinden actually received this decision or the date it was mailed to him, whichever occurred first. In the event this decision is served upon him by mail, three (3) days are added to that period.

FOR THE BOARD

Joseph Pure Jay P. Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C.

ENTERED: December 12, 2006

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a certified true copy of the foregoing Order was mailed on this day to Hugh J. McLinden at 4 Haxall Court, Sterling, Virginia 20165.

Jay P. Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C. Executive Director for the

Board of Nursing

December 12, 2004

DATE