

**VIRGINIA:**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE:       APRIL PAULOS, L.P.N.  
              License No.: 0002-085829**

**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 July 2, 2014, in Henrico County, Virginia. April Paulos, L.P.N., was not present nor was she represented by legal counsel. Jane Elliott, R.N., Ph.D., serving as Agency Subordinate for the Board, submitted a Recommended Decision for consideration.

On September 17, 2014, a quorum of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. Ms. Paulos 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. April Paulos, L.P.N., was issued License No. 0002-085829 to practice practical nursing in Virginia on September 26, 2011. The license is scheduled to expire on April 30, 2015. Ms. Paulos' primary state of residence is Virginia.

2. By letter dated June 10, 2014, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Webb notifying her that an informal conference would be held on July 2, 2014. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 271 Mae Lane, Wake, Virginia, 23176, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing. The Notice of Informal Conference and the unsigned receipt for

the Notice sent via certified mail were returned to the Board office on June 25, 2014. The Notice sent via first-class mail was not returned to the Board office. The Agency Subordinate concluded that adequate notice was provided to Ms. Paulos and the informal conference proceeded in her absence.

3. On July 11, 2013, the Board entered a Consent Order taking no action against Ms. Paulos (“Board’s Order”). Term No. 1 of the Board’s Order made this disposition contingent upon her continued compliance with the Health Practitioners’ Monitoring Program (“HPMP”), which she entered on November 28, 2012. Said action was due to findings that Ms. Paulos had diverted oxycodone (Schedule II) during the course of her employment with Mizpah Healthcare Center, Locust Hill, Virginia, and due to her diagnosis of depression.

4. On September 20, 2013, Ms. Paulos was dismissed from HPMP for noncompliance, including failure to enter and complete treatment as recommended, and due to her continued use of alcohol.

5. In a November 7, 2013, interview, Ms. Paulos’ substance abuse counselor stated to an investigator for the Department of Health Professions that Ms. Paulos was not safe to practice nursing because of her failure to complete recommended treatment.

6. On October 23, 2013, Ms. Paulos stated to the investigator that she had previously attended Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings in the past but that she had not attended “in a while.” Ms. Paulos did not submit to a urine drug screen by October 24, 2013, as requested by the investigator. Ms. Paulos stated to the investigator that she was working as a waitress.

7. On September 4, 2013, Ms. Paulos entered a plea of guilty in the Circuit Court of Middlesex County, Virginia, to an indictment charging obtaining a prescription by fraud. The Court deferred the disposition of the case for two years contingent upon Ms. Paulos remaining compliant with court requirements, including good behavior, indefinite supervised probation, submitting to a substance

abuse evaluation, abstaining from drug and alcohol use, and payment of court costs.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Finding of Fact No. 4 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, and Term No. 1 of the Board's Order.

### ORDER

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

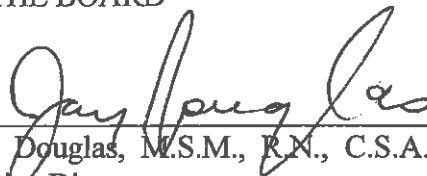
1. April Paulos, L.P.N. is hereby REPRIMANDED.
2. License No. 0001-153467 of April Paulos, L.P.N., is INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED for a period of not less than two years.
3. The license will be recorded as suspended and no longer current.
4. At such time as Ms. Paulos shall petition the Board for reinstatement of her license, an administrative proceeding will be convened to determine whether she is capable of resuming the safe and competent practice of practical nursing. Ms. Paulos 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 applies to any multistate privilege to practice practical nursing.

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.

Since Ms. Paulos failed to appear at the informal conference, this Order shall be considered final. Ms. Paulos has the right to appeal this Order directly to the appropriate Virginia circuit court. As provided by Rule 2A:2 of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Ms. Paulos has thirty (30) days from the date of service (the date she actually received this decision or the date it was mailed to her, whichever occurred

first) within which to appeal this decision by filing a Notice of Appeal with Jay P. Douglas, M.S.M., R.N., C.S.A.C., F.R.E., Executive Director, Board of Nursing, at Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Richmond, Virginia 23233. In the event that this decision is served by mail, three (3) days are added to that period.

FOR THE BOARD



Jay P. Douglas, M.S.M., R.N., C.S.A.C., F.R.E.  
Executive Director  
Virginia Board of Nursing

Entered: October 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2014

**Certified True Copy**

By Stanislaw  
**Virginia Board of Nursing**