

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

**IN RE: KAREN WASILEWSKI, R.N.
 License No.: 0001-130155**

ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION

Pursuant to § 54.1-110 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended (“Code”), a quorum of the Board of Nursing (“Board”) met by telephone conference call on August 18, 2014, 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 certain information indicating that Karen Wasilewski, 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 attached “NOTICE OF HEARING and STATEMENT OF PARTICULARS,” which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein.

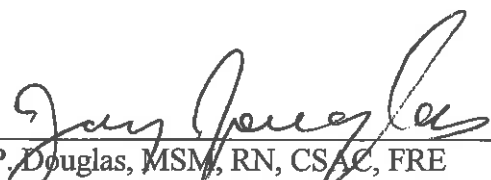
WHEREUPON, pursuant to its authority under § 54.1-2408.1(A) of the Code, the Board concludes that a substantial danger to public health or safety warrants this action and ORDERS that the license of Karen Wasilewski, R.N., License No. 0001-130155, to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia is hereby SUSPENDED. It is further ORDERED that a hearing be convened forthwith to receive and act upon evidence in this case 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 a hearing.

Upon entry of this Order, the license of Karen Wasilewski, R.N., will be recorded as suspended and no longer current.

This Order shall be applicable to Ms. Wasilewski's multistate licensure privilege, if any, to practice professional 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 or copying on request.

FOR THE BOARD



Jay P. Douglas, MSM, RN, CSAC, FRE
Executive Director
Virginia Board of Nursing

Entered: September 2nd 2014

Certified True Copy

By deraham
Virginia Board Of Nursing

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

**IN RE: KAREN WASILEWSKI, R.N.
 License No.: 0001-130155**

NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to §§ 2.2-4020, 2.2-4024(F), and 54.1-2400(11) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended (“Code”), Karen Wasilewski, R.N., who, prior to its summary suspension by the Board of Nursing on September 2, 2014, held License No. 0001-130155 to practice professional nursing in Virginia, is hereby given notice that a formal administrative hearing will be held in the presence of a panel of the Board of Nursing. The hearing will be held on October 20, 2014, at 11:00 a.m., at the offices of the Department of Health Professions, Board of Nursing, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 201, Henrico, Virginia 23233, at which time Ms. Wasilewski will be afforded the opportunity to be heard in person or by counsel.

At the hearing, Ms. Wasilewski has the following rights, among others: the right to representation by counsel; the right to have witnesses subpoenaed and to present witnesses on her behalf; the right to present documentary evidence; and the right to cross-examine adverse witnesses. If Ms. Wasilewski desires any witnesses to appear on her behalf, she must notify the Director of Administrative Proceedings, Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233, in accordance with the Instructions for Requesting Subpoenas.

The purpose of the hearing is to inquire into evidence that Ms. Wasilewski may have violated certain laws governing nursing practice in Virginia, as more fully set forth in the Statement of Particulars below.

STATEMENT OF PARTICULARS

The Board alleges that Karen Wasilewski, R.N., may have violated § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code in that she may be unsafe to practice professional nursing due to substance abuse and/or mental illness as evidenced by the following:

1. On or about February 22, 2014, during the course of her employment in the Emergency Department at Welch Community Hospital, Welch, West Virginia, Ms. Welch arrived late for her shift without notice. Ms. Wasilewski was observed having difficulty walking and slurred speech. She was further noted to have dilated pupils and a faint odor of alcohol. Ms. Wasilewski was taken for drug testing, which resulted in a dilute screen after Ms. Wasilewski was observed to have consumed liquid and had gone to the restroom after being instructed to wait. Attempts to perform breath testing on her were unsuccessful; however, a saliva strip test performed approximately six hours after Ms. Wasilewski began her shift was documented to have registered over .02 percent blood alcohol content.

2. On or about April 16, 2014, during the course of her employment with DaVita Dialysis, working as a contract nurse providing dialysis at Carilion New River Valley, Christiansburg, Virginia, Ms. Wasilewski was observed with her head bobbing and eyes blinking, being unsteady on her feet and fumbling with the key pad lock in the dialysis room. The dialysis machine was alarming, but she failed to attend to the machine. Ms. Wasilewski did not remember receiving report, and seemed unclear of the process for administering blood during the dialysis treatment. Ms. Wasilewski was taken for drug testing, which was positive for hydrocodone (C-III) and opiates.

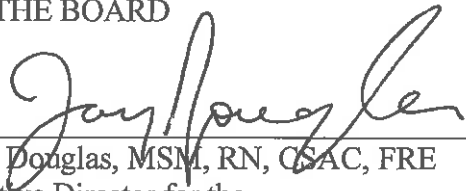
3. On or about April 10, 2014, Ms. Wasilewski was arrested for driving under the influence in Pulaski County, Virginia, for an offense that occurred on or about January 2, 2014.

4. On or about June 25, 2014, Ms. Wasilewski pled guilty to felony possession of a controlled substance in the Tazewell County, Virginia, Circuit Court, for an offense that occurred on or about January 2, 2014. The matter was taken under advisement for one year, and she was placed on supervised probation.

5. On or about June 30, 2014, Ms. Wasilewski's physician wrote a letter to the Board that indicates that Ms. Wasilewski is impaired. The physician wrote that Ms. Wasilewski suffers from mental illness and substance dependence and is not appropriate for employment as a health care provider at this time. Further, on or about April 16, 2014, her physician diagnosed her with major depressive disorder, opiate dependence and alcohol abuse. He documented that Ms. Wasilewski last used intravenous drugs in January 2014.

6. Ms. Wasilewski failed to disclose to her orthopedic physician that she has a history of substance abuse, including an addiction to the narcotic pain medication, Percocet (C-II). Ms. Wasilewski received multiple prescriptions for Lortab (oxycodone, C-II) from her orthopedic physician, and admitted that she takes the Lortab while on duty.

FOR THE BOARD



Jay P. Douglas, MSM, RN, CSAC, FRE
Executive Director for the
Board of Nursing

ENTERED: _____

September 2, 2014