

RECEIVED

JUL 25 2014

VA BD OF NURSING

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

**IN RE: SARAH EDWARDS, R.N.
License No.: 0001-234114**

CONSENT ORDER

The Virginia Board of Nursing ("Board") and Sarah Edwards, R.N., as evidenced by her signature hereto, enter into the following Consent Order affecting Ms. Edwards' license to practice professional nursing in Virginia.

The Board adopts the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Sarah Edwards, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-234114 to practice professional nursing by the Virginia Board of Nursing on October 12, 2011. Said license is set to expire on February 29, 2016. Her primary state of residence is Virginia. She is also licensed as a R.N. in Georgia.
2. By her own admission in a self-report to the Georgia Board of Nursing on October 31, 2013, Ms. Edwards stated that she had a substance abuse problem for which she had sought detoxification and treatment at Willoway Hospital, Statesboro, Georgia, beginning on December 20, 2011. Specifically, Ms. Edwards was abusing opiates and benzodiazepines which she had diverted from her employer, University Hospital of the University Health Care System, Augusta, Georgia.
3. Ms. Edwards admitted her drug diversion to her employer and resigned her position as an emergency room nurse.
4. Following successful completion of her detoxification program, Ms. Edwards entered a treatment program at Willoway Hospital on February 6, 2012. She remained in this program for two years, until January, 2014, at which time she was transferred to Lee Street Recovery, a highly structured recovery

program requiring regular AA attendance and abstinence. Ms. Edwards has maintained sobriety, with the exception of one brief relapse, during her recovery.

5. On October 23, 2013, the Georgia Board of Nursing entered an Order which placed Ms. Edwards on probation for four years with specific terms, including a fine, random drug screens, abstinence from controlled drugs and alcohol, and employment only in nursing settings where she would not have access to controlled substances.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Finding of Fact No. 2 constitutes a violation of §54.1-3007(2), (5), and (6) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended (“Code”) and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(c) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing.

2. Finding of Fact No. 5 constitutes a violation of §54.1-3007(7) of the Code.

CONSENT

Sarah Edwards, R.N., by affixing her signature hereon, agrees to the following:

1. Ms. Edwards has been advised to seek advice of counsel prior to signing this document;
2. Ms. Edwards acknowledges that without her consent, no legal action can be taken against her except pursuant to the Virginia Administrative Process Act, § 2.2-4000(A) *et seq.* of the Code;
3. Ms. Edwards acknowledges that she has the following rights, among others: the right to an informal fact finding conference before the Board, the right to reasonable notice of said hearing, the right to representation by counsel, and the right to cross-examine witnesses against her;
4. Ms. Edwards waives all such right to an informal conference;
5. Ms. Edwards admits to the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained herein and waives her right to contest such Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in any subsequent proceeding before the Board;

6. Ms. Edwards consents to the entry of the following Order affecting her right to practice professional nursing in Virginia.

ORDER

WHEREFORE, on the basis of the foregoing, the Virginia Board of Nursing, effective upon entry of this Order, and in lieu of further proceedings, hereby ORDERS that Sarah Edwards, R.N., shall 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 entered and shall end at such time as Ms. Edwards has successfully completed her probation as ordered by the Georgia Board of Nursing. The license of Ms. Edwards shall be reinstated without restriction at the completion of the probationary period without a hearing 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, § 2.2-4000(A) *et seq.* and §54.1-2400(9) *et seq.* of the Code.

2. Ms. Edwards shall inform the Board in writing within ten days of the date she begins nursing practice or changes employment, or if any interruption in nursing practice occurs. Additionally, Ms. Edwards shall provide the name and address of each employer to the Board.

3. Ms. Edwards shall inform her current nursing employer and each future nursing employer that the Board has placed her on probation and shall provide each employer with a copy of this Order. Ms. Edwards' employment in the following areas is prohibited: nursing agency or pool, private duty, home health, or travel agency.

4. Performance Evaluations shall be provided, at the direction of Ms. Edwards, by all employers, as provided by the Compliance Division. The first report must be received in the Board office no later than

60 days from the date this Order is entered. 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.

5. For the first two years of employment as a professional nurse after being placed on probation, Ms. Edwards shall not administer any Schedule II-V controlled substances, the Schedule VI controlled substance Nubain, or any other controlled substances designated by the Board. After two years, Ms. Edwards may petition the Board for reinstatement of the right to have access to and to administer controlled drugs.

6. Ms. Edwards shall sign appropriate release of information forms to allow exchange of information to include UDS results and other reports between the Georgia aftercare program and the Virginia Board of Nursing.

7. Ms. Edwards shall not use alcohol or any mood altering chemical, except as prescribed by a health care practitioner with whom she has a bona fide practitioner/patient relationship and for accepted medicinal or therapeutic purposes. Should she be prescribed any Schedule II-V controlled medication, a written report from the prescribing physician shall be provided to the Board and to Ms. Edwards' aftercare program counselor within ten days of the date the medication is prescribed.

8. Ms. Edwards shall provide all current and future treating practitioners with a complete copy of this Order and shall execute an Authorization for Disclosure of Information form providing for unrestricted communication between the Board and court-appointed probation or parole officers and any consultant designated by the Board.

9. Ms. Edwards shall submit quarterly "Self-Reports" which include a current address, telephone number, and verification of all current employment. These reports should also include any changes in employment status. The first report must be received in the Board office no later than 60 days from the date this Order is entered. 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.

10. Ms. Edwards shall return all copies of her license to practice as a professional nurse to the Board within ten days of the date of entry of this Order, along with a payment of \$15.00. Upon receipt, the Board shall issue a new license marked “Valid in Virginia Only; Probation with Terms.”

11. Ms. Edwards shall conduct herself as a professional nurse in compliance with the requirements of § 54.1-3000 *et seq.* of the Code and the Virginia Board of Nursing Regulations.

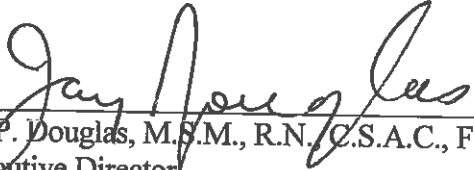
12. Any violation of the terms and conditions of this Order or failure to comply with all terms of this Order within five years of the date of entry of this Order, shall be reason for suspending or revoking the license of Ms. Edwards, and an administrative proceeding may be held to determine whether her license shall be suspended or revoked.

13. The Order is applicable to Ms. Edwards’ multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

14. Ms. Edwards shall sign appropriate releases allowing exchange of compliance documents, reports, and other information between the Georgia Board of Nursing and the Virginia Board of Nursing.

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 upon request.

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: August 6th, 2014

SEEN AND AGREED TO:

Sarah Edwards RN
Sarah Edwards, R.N.

State of TN Du
COMMONWEALTH OF ~~VIRGINIA~~,
COUNTY/CITY OF Hamilton, TO WIT:

Subscribed and sworn to before me, David McKeel, a Notary Public, this 22nd day of July, 2014.

My commission expires Dec. 5, 2017.

Registration Number N/A.

David McKeel
NOTARY PUBLIC



Certified True Copy

By [Signature]
Virginia Board of Nursing