

**VIRGINIA:**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE:       STEPHEN J. PANTAGIS, L.P.N.  
              License No.: 0002-082869**

**ORDER**

Pursuant to §§ 2.2-4019, 2.2-4021, and 54.1-2400(10) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended (“Code”), a Special Conference Committee (“Committee”) of the Virginia Board of Nursing (“Board”) met on April 15, 2013, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Stephen J. Pantagis, L.P.N., may have violated certain laws and regulations governing practical nursing practice in Virginia. Mr. Pantagis was present and was not represented by counsel.

Upon consideration of the evidence, the Committee adopts the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Stephen J. Pantagis, L.P.N., was issued License No. 0002-082869 to practice as a practical nurse in the Commonwealth of Virginia on July 16, 2010. Said license expires on January 31, 2016. Mr. Pantagis’ primary state of residence is Virginia.
2. By letter dated March 22, 2013, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference (“Notice”) to Mr. Pantagis notifying him that an informal conference would be held on April 15, 2013. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 3901 St. Mary’s Circle, Williamsburg, Virginia, 23185, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing.
3. During the course of his employment with Maxim Healthcare Services, while assigned to Client A, a pediatric vent-dependent quadriplegic patient:
  - a. On October 5, 2012, Mr. Pantagis removed Client A from her ventilator for about 45 minutes without a physician’s order. He stated that he was told by the patient’s father’s girlfriend and

another nurse that the patient could come off the ventilator for a limited amount of time, but he admitted never verifying with the physician that the patient could be removed from the ventilator.

b. On October 5, 2012, Mr. Pantagis administered a bolus feeding to Client A without a physician's order. He stated that his understanding was that bolus feedings for this client were routine and that he had administered at least three in the client's father's presence. He admitted not verifying the administration of bolus feeding with the client's physician.

4. Mr. Pantagis acknowledged at the informal conference that during the course of his employment with Maxim Healthcare, he used profanity in the home of Client A, although the client was in a different room at the time.

5. During the course of his employment with Consulate Health Care, Williamsburg, Virginia:

a. On March 22, 2012, Mr. Pantagis failed to execute a medication order for a resident when the new medication became available.

b. On March 22, 2012, Mr. Pantagis failed to complete a treatment for a resident as ordered by the resident's physician. He stated at the informal conference that he asked another nurse to perform the task but did not verify if the task was completed.

6. During the course of his employment at Patriots Colony, Williamsburg, Virginia:

a. By his own admission, on September 30, 2010, Mr. Pantagis placed a 12.5-mcg Fentanyl patch on a resident rather than a 25-mcg patch as ordered by the physician.

b. By his own admission, September 15, 2010, Mr. Pantagis applied a new Fentanyl patch to a resident without verifying that no other patches remained on the resident's body.

7. Mr. Pantagis' employments with Maxim, Patriots Colony and Consulate Health Care were terminated. He is currently unemployed.

8. Mr. Pantagis acknowledged his mistakes and stated that he was “not perfect.” He stated at the informal conference that in his future nursing practice, he would take no action without verifying the physician’s order.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Findings of Fact Nos. 3(a) and 3(b) constitute violations of § 54.1-3007(2), (5), and (8) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(a) and (f) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing (“Regulations”).
2. Finding of Fact No. 4 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(5) of the Code.
3. Findings of Fact Nos. 5(a) and 5(b) and 6(a) and 6(b) constitute violations of § 54.1-3007(2), (5), and (8) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(f) of the Regulations.

### ORDER

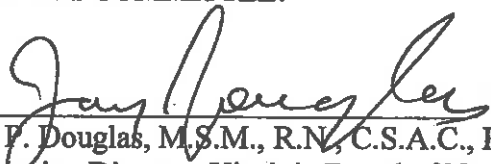
On the basis of the foregoing, the Committee hereby ORDERS as follows:

1. Stephen J. Pantagis, L.P.N., is hereby REPRIMANDED.
2. Mr. Pantagis shall provide the Board with verification that he has completed the following NCSBN online course within 60 days of the date this Order is entered: *Professional Accountability and Legal Liability for Nurses*.
3. Mr. Pantagis shall maintain a course of conduct in his capacity as a practical nurse commensurate with the requirements of § 54.1-3000 *et seq.* of the Code and the Board of Nursing Regulations.
4. Any violation of the terms and conditions of this Order or of any law or regulation affecting the practice of nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia shall constitute grounds for the suspension or revocation of the license of Mr. Pantagis and an administrative proceeding shall be convened to determine whether such license shall be suspended or revoked.

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.


Pursuant to Section 54.1-2400(10) of the Code, Mr. Pantagis may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on September 8, 2014, notify Jay P. Douglas, M.S.M., R.N., C.S.A.C., F.R.E., Executive Director, Board of Nursing, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233, in writing that he desires a formal administrative hearing before the Board. Upon the filing with the Executive Director of a request for the hearing, this Order shall be vacated.

FOR THE COMMITTEE:

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

ENTERED: August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014

This Order shall become final on September 8, 2014 unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

Certified True Copy  
By   
Virginia Board of Nursing