

**VIRGINIA:**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE:       STEPHANIE L. SISSON, L.P.N.**  
**License No.: 0002-046967**

**ORDER**

In accordance with Sections 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 February 25, 2014, in Henrico County, Virginia. Stephanie L. Sisson, L.P.N., was not present nor was she represented by legal counsel. Judith E. Piersall, R.N., B.S.N., serving as Agency Subordinate for the Board, submitted a Recommended Decision for consideration.

On May 21, 2014, the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. Ms. Sisson 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.       Stephanie Sisson, L.P.N., was issued License No. 0002-046967 to practice practical nursing by the Virginia Board of Nursing on November 24, 1992. Said license was summarily suspended by Order of the Board entered November 20, 1995, and then indefinitely suspended by Consent Order entered April 2, 1996. Respondent's license was reinstated by Order of the Board entered March 1, 2013, and is now set to expire on August 31, 2015. The license is valid in Virginia only. Ms. Sisson's primary state of residence is Virginia.

2.       By letter dated January 31, 2014, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Sisson notifying her that an informal conference would be held on February 25, 2014. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 3271 Alleghany Springs Road,

Shawsville, Virginia 24162, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing. The certified mail receipt was signed and returned to the Board on February 11, 2014. The Notice sent by regular mail was not returned to the Board. The Agency Subordinate concluded that adequate notice was provided to Ms. Sisson and the informal conference proceeded in her absence.

3. Term No. 1 of the Board's Order entered March 1, 2013, reinstated Ms. Sisson's license to practice practical nursing contingent upon her remaining compliant with the terms and conditions of her contract with the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP") for the period specified by the HPMP. Ms. Sisson had entered the HPMP in October 2012.

4. On July 19, 2013, Ms. Sisson was dismissed from the HPMP due to noncompliance. Specifically, she had failed to enter and complete treatment as recommended following two toxicology screens that were positive for alcohol, and she had failed to comply with the toxicology screening program.

5. Ms. Sisson has been in and out of treatment for addiction and depression.

6. On January 14, 2013, May 17, 2013, and May 29, 2013, Ms. Sisson tested positive for alcohol. The tests conducted indicated that it was active alcohol consumption versus incidental consumption of an over-the-counter medication.

7. Ms. Sisson has been in counseling since October 2012, and continues to attend weekly sessions in her women's group.

8. When interviewed by an investigator with the Virginia Department of Health Professions on August 29, 2013, Ms. Sisson stated that although her addiction to narcotics was severe in the past, she has been sober since January 15, 2009, even though she tested positive for alcohol at least three times in 2013.

9. Ms. Sisson has not been employed as a nurse since the mid-1990s.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Finding of Fact No. 4 constitutes a violation of Term No. 1 of the Board’s Order entered March 1, 2013.

### ORDER

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

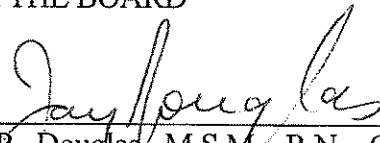
1. Stephanie L. Sisson, L.P.N., is hereby REPRIMANDED.
2. License No. 0002-046967 of Stephanie L. Sisson, L.P.N., is INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED.
3. The license will be recorded as suspended and no longer current.
4. At such time as Ms. Sisson shall petition the Board for reinstatement of her license, an administrative proceeding will be convened to determine whether she is capable of resuming the safe and competent practice of practical nursing. Ms. Sisson 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. Sisson failed to appear at the informal conference, this Order shall be considered final. Ms. Sisson 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. Sisson 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: \_\_\_\_\_

