

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: PAULA THOMAS, L.P.N, REINSTATEMNET APPLICANT
License No.: 0002-040099

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 3, 2014, in Henrico County, Virginia, to receive and act upon Paula Thomas’ application for reinstatement of her license to practice practical nursing in Virginia, and to inquire into evidence that Ms. Thomas may have violated certain laws governing nursing practice. Ms. Thomas 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. Paula Thomas, L.P.N., was issued License No. 0002-040099 to practice practical nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia on May 25, 1988. Said license was suspended by Order of the Board entered on October 8, 2013. The suspension was a result of Ms. Thomas’ diversion of medications from two previous employers, and her misdemeanor conviction as a result of the diversion. Ms. Thomas’ primary state of residence is Virginia.

2. By letter dated March 10, 2014, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference (“Notice”) to Ms. Thomas notifying her that an informal conference would be held on April 3, 2014. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 15064 Copper Turtle Place, Woodbridge, Virginia 22193, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing.

3. Ms. Thomas submitted an application for reinstatement of her license to practice practical nursing which was received by the Board on November 7, 2013.

4. Ms. Thomas has been diagnosed with bipolar disorder and attention deficit hyperactive disorder. Further, on May 3, 2013, Ms. Thomas entered into a Participation Contract and on July 1, 2013, she entered into a Recovery Monitoring Contract with the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP"), where she recognized that mental illness may impair her ability to practice practical nursing.

5. Ms. Thomas stated that she is currently in compliance with her Recovery Monitoring Contract.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Finding of Fact No. 4 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code.

2. Based on the above Findings of Fact, the Committee concludes that Ms. Thomas is properly enrolled in the HPMP.

3. Ms. Thomas otherwise meets the requirements for reinstatement of her license to practice practical nursing.

ORDER

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

1. The application of Paula Thomas for reinstatement of her license to practice practical nursing in Virginia is hereby APPROVED, contingent upon her continued compliance with the HPMP for the period specified in the Contract.

2. Any violation of the terms and conditions stated in this Order shall be reason for revoking the license of Ms. Thomas, and an administrative proceeding shall be held to decide whether her license should be revoked. Ms. Thomas shall be noticed to appear before the Board at such time as the Board is notified that:

a. Ms. Thomas is not in compliance with the terms and conditions of the HPMP, or has been terminated from participation in the HPMP;

b. There is a pending investigation or unresolved allegation against Ms. Thomas involving a violation of law or regulation or any term or condition of this Order; or

c. Ms. Thomas has successfully completed the above-referenced period of participation in the HPMP. However, upon receipt of Ms. Thomas' participation in and compliance with the HPMP, the Board, at its discretion, may waive Ms. Thomas' appearance before the Board and conduct an administrative review of this matter.

3. This order shall be applicable to Ms. Thomas' multistate licensure privilege, if any, to practice practical nursing. For the duration of this Order, Ms. Thomas shall not work outside the Commonwealth of Virginia pursuant to a multistate licensure privilege without the written permission of the Virginia Board of Nursing and the Board of Nursing in the party state where Ms. Thomas wishes to work. Any request for out of state employment shall be directed, in writing, to the Executive Director of the Board.

4. Ms. Thomas shall maintain a course of conduct in her capacity as a practical nursing commensurate with the requirements of § 54.1-3000 *et seq.* of the Code and the Board of Nursing Regulations.

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, Ms. Thomas may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on **June 9, 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 she 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:

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

ENTERED: *May 7, 2014*

This Order shall become final on **June 9, 2014**, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

Certified True Copy

By *[Signature]*
Virginia Board of Nursing