

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE:

KAREN GENTRY TEMPLE, R.N.

CONSENT ORDER

The Virginia Board of Nursing (the "Board") and Karen Gentry Temple, R.N., enter into the following Consent Order affecting Ms. Temple's license to practice professional nursing.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Karen Gentry Temple, R.N., holds License No. 0001-142010 to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
2. During the course of her employment with John Randolph Hospital, Hopewell, Virginia, by her own admission, between approximately May 1995, and February 1996, Ms. Temple diverted various amounts of divers Schedule II and Schedule IV controlled substances, to include Demerol, a Schedule II controlled substance, Morphine, a Schedule II controlled substance, Percocet, a Schedule II controlled substance, and Valium, or diazepam, a Schedule IV controlled substance, for her personal and unauthorized use while on and off duty. These diversions were accomplished by signing out medication for patients for whom it was not ordered, failing to document medication administration on patient records, signing out controlled substances but administering over-the-counter medications, signing out more medication or types of medication than ordered, signing out medication for other nurses' patients, and failing to waste medication.

3. By her own admission, Ms. Temple obtained prescriptions for various amounts of Xanax 0.5mg, a Schedule IV controlled substance, and Percocet, a Schedule II controlled substance, from more than one physician at a time, none of whom were aware the others were prescribing these medications.

4. Between on or about February 12, 1996, and February 23, 1996, Ms. Temple received inpatient treatment for chronic dysthymia and polysubstance dependence on opiates, narcotics, benzodiazepines and alcohol from Poplar Springs Hospital, Petersburg, Virginia.

5. By her own admission, at the time she entered treatment; Ms. Temple was consuming on a daily basis up to fifteen (15) to twenty (20) Percocet tablets (obtained from prescriptions and diversions) and three (3) to six (6) Xanax 0.5mg (obtained from prescriptions) When Ms. Temple could not obtain the amount of Percocet she needed in a given day, Ms. Temple diverted and administered to herself 300-400 mg of Demerol and/or 20mg of Morphine. If these medications were not available, Ms. Temple would consume alcohol, up to two (2) bottles of wine and a fifth of liquor in a two-day period. Further, she reported occasional unauthorized use of Ritalin, prescribed for her son, to counter the effects of the narcotics.

6. In 1984, Ms. Temple received treatment for alcohol dependence from Poplar Springs Hospital.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Board concluded that Findings of Fact Nos. 2 through 6 constitute a violation of § 54.1-3007(2), (5) and (6) of the Code

of Virginia (1950), as amended, and § 4.1.A.2(c) and (e) of the Board of Nursing Regulations.

CONSENT

Karen Gentry Temple, R.N., by affixing her signature hereon, agrees to the following:

1. She acknowledges that she has been specifically advised to seek advice of counsel prior to signing this document;
2. She acknowledges that she is fully aware that without her consent, no legal action can be taken against her license except pursuant to the Virginia Administrative Process Act, § 9-6.14:1, et seq, of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended;
3. She acknowledges that she has the following rights among others: the right to a formal fact finding hearing before the Board, to reasonable notice of said hearing, to representation by counsel and the right to cross-examine witnesses against her;
4. She waives all such right to a formal hearing;
5. She waives her right to contest the foregoing Findings of Fact in any subsequent proceeding before the Board;
6. She consents to the entry of the following Order affecting her license to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

ORDER

On the basis of the foregoing, the Virginia Board of Nursing, effective upon entry of this Order, hereby ORDERS that License No. 0001-142010 issued to Karen Gentry Temple, R.N., to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia, be and hereby

is INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED for not less than two (2) years. At such time as she shall petition the Board for reinstatement of her license, a hearing will be convened to receive evidence satisfactory to the Board that she is capable of resuming the safe and competent practice of nursing.

Pursuant to § '9-6.14:14 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, 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 inspections or copying on request.

FOR THE BOARD

Nancy K. Durrett
Nancy K. Durrett, R.N., M.S.N.
Executive Director

ENTERED May 20, 1996

SEEN AND AGREED TO:

Karen Gentry Temple
Karen Gentry Temple, R.N

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

CITY/COUNTY OF Henrico

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Notary Public in and for the city/county of Henrico, this 20th day of May, 1996, by Karen Gentry Temple, R.N.

Blanchia D. Martin
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 4-30-97

RECEIVED: May 21, 1996

BY: John W. Hasty
John W. Hasty, Director
Department of Health Professions