

**VIRGINIA:**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE: SARAH D. CRESSELL, R.N.  
License No.: 0001-224476**

**ORDER**

Pursuant to §§ 2.2-4020, 54.1-110 and 54.1-2400(11) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code"), a formal administrative hearing was held before a panel of the Board of Nursing ("Board") on May 20, 2015, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Sarah D. Cressell, R.N., may have violated certain terms and conditions imposed on her as set forth in a Consent Order of the Board entered March 18, 2014, and certain laws governing the practice of nursing. The case was presented by Amanda E. M. Blount, Adjudication Specialist, Administrative Proceedings Division. James Rutkowski, Assistant Attorney General, was present as legal counsel for the Board. Ms. Cressell was present and was not represented by legal counsel. The proceedings were recorded by a certified court reporter.

Upon consideration of the evidence presented, the Board adopted the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Sarah D. Cressell, R.N., held License No. 0001-224476 to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia, which was issued on June 3, 2010. Her primary state of residence is Virginia. By Consent Order of the Board entered March 18, 2014, Ms. Cressell's license to practice professional nursing was indefinitely suspended with said suspension stayed contingent upon her compliance with all terms and conditions of the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP") for the period specified by the HPMP. This action was based on findings related to Ms. Cressell's diversion of Demerol PCA (meperidine, C-II), which she self-injected both on and off duty during the

course of her employment with Wythe County Community Hospital, Wytheville, Virginia. The stay of indefinite suspension was thereafter summarily rescinded on January 22, 2015, pursuant to a notice of Ms. Cressell's dismissal from the HPMP on December 16, 2014.

2. Ms. Cressell signed a Participation Contract with the HPMP on October 2, 2013. She signed the first of three Recovery Monitoring Contracts on October 21, 2013. On December 16, 2014, Ms. Cressell was dismissed from the HPMP for noncompliance due to her failure to enter and complete treatment as recommended and to comply with the toxicology screening program.

3. Ms. Cressell expressed remorse and accepted responsibility for her actions that led to HPMP dismissing her from the program. She testified she is currently in a Suboxone treatment program where she is regularly drug tested and seeing a counselor once a month. Her sobriety date is December 26, 2014. She reported her trigger is depression. She attends Celebrate Recovery at her church once a week. She testified she is ready to be dedicated to HPMP and to remain sober. She acknowledged she is an addict. She requested to return to HPMP, and she is financially able to comply with the program. Her counselor wrote a letter stating that she believed Ms. Cressell "authentically wants to remain substance free."

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Board concludes that Finding of Fact No. 2 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code and Term No. 5 of the Consent Order entered March 18, 2014.

#### ORDER

WHEREFORE, the Virginia Board of Nursing, effective upon entry of this Order, hereby ORDERS as follows:

1. Sarah D. Cressell, R.N., is hereby REPRIMANDED.
2. License No. 0001-224476 issued to Sarah D. Cressell, R.N., to practice professional

nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia is CONTINUED on INDEFINITE SUSPENSION.

3. The license of Ms. Cressell will be recorded as SUSPENDED. Should Ms. Cressell seek reinstatement of her license consistent with this Order, she shall be responsible for any fees that may be required for the reinstatement of her license prior to issuance of her license to resume practice.

4. At such time as Ms. Cressell shall petition the Board for reinstatement of her license, an administrative proceeding will be convened to determine whether she is able to return to the safe and competent practice as a professional nurse.

5. This Order shall be applicable to Ms. Cressell's multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice professional nursing.

6. Said suspension shall be STAYED upon proof that Ms. Cressell has re-entered into a contract with the HPMP and upon the condition that she remain compliant with the terms of the HPMP and the following terms and conditions:

a. Ms. Cressell shall comply with all terms and conditions for the period specified by the HPMP.

b. Any violation of the terms and conditions stated in this Order shall be reason for summarily rescinding the stay of indefinite suspension of the license of Sarah D. Cressell, R.N., and an administrative proceeding shall be held to decide whether her license shall be revoked. The stay of indefinite suspension may be summarily rescinded at such time the Board is notified that:

i. Ms. Cressell is not in compliance with the terms and conditions specified by the HPMP, or has been terminated from participation in the HPMP, or

ii. There is a pending investigation or unresolved allegation involving a violation of law, regulation or any term or condition of this Order.

7. Upon receipt of evidence of Ms. Cressell's participation in and successful completion of

the terms specified by the HPMP, the Board, at its discretion, may waive Ms. Cressell's appearance before the Board, and conduct an administrative review of this matter, at which time she may be issued an unrestricted license.

8. This Order shall be applicable to Ms. Cressell's multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice professional nursing. It is further ordered that for the duration of this Order, Ms. Cressell may not work outside of 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 she wishes to work.

9. Ms. Cressell shall maintain a course of conduct in her capacity as a professional nurse 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.

FOR THE BOARD



Jay P. Douglas, MSM, RN, CSAC, FRE  
Executive Director  
Virginia Board of Nursing

June 25, 2015  
ENTERED

Certified True Copy

By draham  
Virginia Board Of Nursing

**NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL**

As provided by Rule 2A:2 of the Supreme Court of Virginia, you have 30 days from the date you are served with this Order in which to appeal this decision by filing a Notice of Appeal with Jay P. Douglas, MSM, RN, CSAC, FRE, Executive Director, Board of Nursing, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233. The service date shall be defined as the date you actually received this decision or the date it was mailed to you, whichever occurred first. In the event this decision is served upon you by mail, three days are added to that period.