

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE:

SANDRA E. THOMAS, R.N.

CONSENT ORDER

The Virginia Board of Nursing and Sandra E. Thomas, R.N., with her consent as evidenced by her signature below, enter into the following Consent Order affecting Ms. Thomas's license to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Sandra E. Thomas, R.N., holds License No. 0001-138069 issued by the Virginia Board of Nursing.
2. During the course of her employment at Henrico Doctors Hospital-Forest, Richmond, Virginia, Ms. Thomas violated § 54.1-3007(2), (5), and (6) of the Code, and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(c) of the Regulations of the Board of Nursing, in that, on February 17, 2005, a routine 48 hour audit of the facility's Acudose system indicated a possibility that she withdrew one (1) to two (2) Percocet (oxycodone), a Schedule II controlled substance, during each shift that she worked, without proper documentation to account for distribution of the medication. A subsequent review of 15 patient records for December 2004 to March 2005 indicated that Ms. Thomas withdrew Percocet more frequently than coworkers, failed to scan or document on the Medication Administration Record a significant number of her withdrawals, and failed to document administration of medication either on the nurses' notes or on patient flow sheets. When confronted, Ms. Thomas admitted that she had been diverting and ingesting 1 to 2 tablets of Percocet while on duty, during most of the shifts she worked, for the majority of her employment.

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As a result of the above diversions, Ms. Thomas's employment was terminated on March 14, 2005.

3. During the course of her employment at Manor Care Health Services-Stratford Hall, Richmond, Virginia, from April 29, 2004, to June 3, 2004, Ms. Thomas violated § 54.1-3007(2), (5), and (6) of the Code, and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(c) and of the Regulations of the Board of Nursing, in that, by her own admission, she diverted four (4) tablets of Percocet that were to be destroyed.

4. On or about April 8, 2005, Ms. Thomas voluntarily entered the Health Practitioners' Intervention Program ("HPIP"). Ms. Thomas's case manager stated that she is currently on pre-dismissal status with HPIP due to non-compliance with her contract.

5. On October 13, 2005, Ms. Thomas contacted the Board and stated that she wished to surrender her license.

CONSENT

Sandra E. Thomas, R.N., by affixing her signature hereon, agrees to the following:

1. Ms. Thomas acknowledges that she has been specifically advised to seek advice of counsel prior to signing this document;

2. Ms. Thomas acknowledges that she is fully aware that without her consent, no legal action can be taken against her except pursuant to the Virginia Administrative Process Act, § 2.2-4000.A et seq., of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended;

3. Ms. Thomas 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;

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4. Ms. Thomas waives all such right to a formal hearing;
5. Ms. Thomas admits to the above Findings of Fact;
6. Ms. Thomas consents to the entry of the following Order affecting her practice of professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

ORDER

WHEREFORE, on the basis of the foregoing, the Virginia Board of Nursing, effective upon entry of this Consent Order, hereby ACCEPTS the SURRENDER for INDEFINITE SUSPENSION of the license of Sandra E. Thomas, R.N., in lieu of a formal hearing in this matter. At such time as Ms. Thomas shall petition the Board for reinstatement of her license, an administrative proceeding will be convened to receive evidence satisfactory to the Board that she is capable of resuming the safe and competent practice of nursing.

Upon entry of this Consent Order, the license of Sandra E. Thomas, R.N., will be recorded as suspended and no longer current. Consistent with the terms of this Consent Order, in the event that Ms. Thomas seeks reinstatement of her license, she shall be responsible for any fees that may be required for the reinstatement and renewal of her license prior to issuance of her license to resume practice.

Pursuant to Sections 2.2-4023 and 54.1-2400.2 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, the signed original of this Consent 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

Judith E. Piersall

Judith E. Piersall, R.N., B.S.N.
President for the
Virginia Board of Nursing

ENTERED: November 16th, 2005

SEEN AND AGREED TO:

Sandra E. Thomas
Sandra E. Thomas, R.N.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,
COUNTY/CITY OF King William, TO WIT:

Subscribed and sworn to before me, Sharon A. Twitchell, a Notary Public, this
21 day of October, 2005.

My commission expires the 31 day of JANUARY, 2009.

Sharon Twitchell
NOTARY PUBLIC