

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

**IN RE: MARY K. HONSINGER, R.N.
 License No.: 0001-215408**

ORDER

In accordance with §§ 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 October 23, 2013, in Henrico County, Virginia. Mary K. Honsinger, R.N., was not present nor was she represented by legal counsel. Jane Elliott, R.N., Ph.D., serving as Agency Subordinate for the Board, submitted a Recommended Decision for consideration.

On January 29, 2014, a quorum of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. Ms. Honsinger 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. Mary K. Honsinger, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-215408 to practice professional nursing in Virginia on September 15, 2008. The license is scheduled to expire on January 31, 2016. Ms. Honsinger's primary state of residence is Virginia.
2. By letter dated September 27, 2013, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Honsinger notifying her that an informal conference would be held on October 23, 2013. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 7213 Otey Drive, Lanexa, Virginia, 23089, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing. The receipt for the Notice sent via certified mail was signed by an unknown party and returned to the Board office on October 2, 2013.

The Notice sent via first-class mail was not returned to the Board office. The Agency Subordinate concluded that adequate notice was provided to Ms. Honsinger, and the informal conference proceeded in her absence.

3. During the course of her employment with Riverside Regional Medical Center, Newport News, Virginia, on April 12, 2013, Ms. Honsinger was found lying on a bed in a patient care area appearing confused and disoriented. Further, she had been counseled several days earlier for sleeping on duty.

4. On April 12, 2013, Ms. Honsinger abandoned her shift in the Emergency Room without providing for continued care of patients assigned to her for more than one and a half hours. On April 15, 2013, Ms. Honsinger's employment with Riverside Regional Medical Center was terminated.

5. Ms. Honsinger entered into the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP") on July 19, 2013, and she is currently enrolled in inpatient therapy at Willow Oaks. In her Participation Contract, Ms. Honsinger acknowledged a history of substance abuse. Ms. Honsinger's substance abuse history includes cocaine, heroin, Dilaudid (hydromorphone – Schedule II), methamphetamine (Schedule II), and Ritalin (methylphenidate – Schedule II). She has had no sustained periods of sobriety. She also admitted to daily use of heroin beginning in October 2012.

6. On October 14, 2013, Ms. Honsinger was placed on Warning Status by the HPMP due to a urine drug screen that was positive for morphine and noncompliance with treatment attendance.

7. Since her initial licensure in 2008, Ms. Honsinger has held six nursing jobs, and her employment with each has been terminated.

8. Ms. Honsinger stated to an investigator of the Department of Health Professions that she has falsified multiple employment applications and has used synthetic urine to pass pre-employment drug screens and substance abuse treatment-related drug screens.

9. Ms. Honsinger denies diversion at any time at any place of employment.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Finding of Fact No. 3 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(5) and (6) of the Code.
2. Finding of Fact No. 4 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(2), (5), and (8) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(f) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing.
3. Finding of Fact No. 5 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code.

ORDER

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. Mary K. Honsinger, R.N., is hereby REPRIMANDED.
2. License No. 0001-215408 of Mary K. Honsinger, R.N., is INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED.
3. The license will be recorded as suspended and no longer current.
4. At such time as Ms. Honsinger 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 professional nursing. Ms. Honsinger 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 shall be STAYED and the following terms and conditions shall apply:
 - a. Ms. Honsinger shall comply with all terms and conditions of the HPMP 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 Ms. Honsinger, and an administrative proceeding shall be held to determine 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. Honsinger is not in compliance with the terms and conditions specified by the HPMP;
- ii. Ms. Honsinger's participation in the HPMP has been terminated;
- iii. There is a pending investigation or unresolved allegation against Ms. Honsinger involving a violation of law, regulation, or any term or condition of this order.

6. Upon receipt of evidence of Ms. Honsinger's participation and successful completion of the HPMP, the Board, at its discretion, may waive Ms. Honsinger's appearance before a Committee and conduct an administrative review of this matter, at which time she may be issued an unrestricted license.

7. This Order is applicable to Ms. Honsinger's multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice professional nursing. For the duration of this Order, Ms. Honsinger shall 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 Ms. Honsinger wishes to work. Any requests for out of state employment should be directed, in writing, to the Executive Director of the Board.


8. Ms. Honsinger 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 § 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. Honsinger failed to appear at the informal conference, this Order shall be considered

final. Ms. Honsinger 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. Honsinger 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, Henrico, Virginia 23233. In the event that this decision is served by mail, three (3) days are added to that period.

FOR THE BOARD:


So Jay P. Douglas, M.S.M., R.N., C.S.A.C., F.R.E.
Executive Director
Virginia Board of Nursing

Entered: Feb. 14, 2014

Certified True Copy

By 
Virginia Board of Nursing