

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: RHONDA F. THOMPSON, L.P.N.
License No.: 0002-076379

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. Rhonda F. Thompson, L.P.N., was present and was not represented by 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. Thompson 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. Rhonda F. Thompson, L.P.N., was issued License No. 0002-076379 to practice practical nursing in Virginia on July 30, 2007. The license expired on March 31, 2013. Ms. Thompson'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. Thompson notifying her that an informal conference would be held on October 23, 2013. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 7288 Old Cold Harbor Drive, Mechanicsville, Virginia, 23111, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing.

3. On November 8, 2011, Ms. Thompson's license to practice was summarily suspended by the Board, on the grounds that her practice constituted a substantial danger to public health or safety due to her use of heroin and appearing impaired at work during the course of her employment with Cumberland Hospital on August 19, 2011. On December 9, 2011, the Board entered a Consent Order reinstating Ms. Thompson's license to practice practical nursing; Term No. 1 of that Order took no action against her contingent upon her continued compliance with the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP"), which she had entered into on October 31, 2011.

4. On January 11, 2013, Ms. Thompson was dismissed from the HPMP for failing to comply with the urine toxicology screening program, failing to submit monthly reports, and continued use of heroin. At the informal conference, Ms. Thompson admitted to each of the infractions that led to her dismissal from the HPMP.

5. Ms. Thompson stated that she has not used heroin in "months and months," but she was unable to provide a specific sobriety date. She admitted to using heroin following her dismissal from the HPMP, after her physician refused to re-prescribe her Xanax. She does not currently attend Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous, and her past attendance at either was irregular. She has failed to complete any inpatient or outpatient treatment programs.

6. Upon questioning, Ms. Thompson denied taking any mood-altering medications prior to appearing the informal conference. However, she appeared hyperactive and unsure of many of her responses, and she appeared to have no insight into her heroin addiction.

7. At the informal conference, Ms. Thompson stated that her August 2011 employment-related drug screen, which was positive for heroin and served as the basis for her termination from Cumberland Hospital, was a random drug screen. This is in conflict with the findings in the Board's Consent Order, in which Ms. Thompson admitted that she submitted to a for-cause drug screen after

being observed to be unsteady on her feet, drowsy, and slurring her speech.

8. Ms. Thompson currently takes Effexor and trazodone daily, as prescribed by her physician, and stated at the informal conference that she is currently unemployed.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Finding of Fact No. 4 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code and Term No. 1 of the Board's Order.

ORDER

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:


1. Rhonda F. Thompson, L.P.N., is hereby REPRIMANDED.
2. The right of Rhonda F. Thompson, L.P.N., to renew License No. 0002-076379 is INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED for not less than two years.
3. The license will be recorded as suspended.
4. At such time as Ms. Thompson 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 practical nursing. Ms. Thompson 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 applies to any multistate privilege to practice practical nursing.

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.

Pursuant to Section 54.1-2400(10) of the Code, Ms. Thompson may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on March 19, 2014, notify Jay P. Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C., Executive Director, Board of

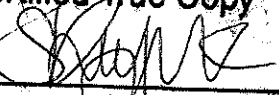
Nursing, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233, in writing that she desires a formal administrative hearing before the Board. Upon the filing with the Executive Director of a request for the hearing, this Order shall be vacated.

FOR THE BOARD:


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

ENTERED: Feb. 14, 2014

This Order shall become final on March 19, 2014 unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

Certified True Copy
By 
Virginia Board of Nursing