

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: PENNY TRENTHAM, R.N.
License No.: 0001-167597

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 July 30, 2013, in Henrico County, Virginia. Penny Trentham, R.N., was not present nor was she represented by legal counsel. Janet Younger, R.N., P.N.P., Ph.D., serving as Agency Subordinate for the Board, submitted a Recommended Decision for consideration.

On September 18, 2013, a quorum of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. Ms. Trentham 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. Penny Trentham, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-167597 to practice professional nursing in Virginia on February 11, 2000. The license is scheduled to expire on August 31, 2015. Her primary state of residence is Virginia.

2. By letter dated July 2, 2013, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Trentham notifying her that an informal conference would be held on July 30, 2013. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 6210 Anna Park Drive, Apt. 103, Midlothian, Virginia 23112, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing. The Notice sent by first class mail was returned to the Board office marked "Return to sender/not deliverable as addressed/unable to

forward.” Neither the Notice sent by certified mail nor the certified mail receipt was returned to the Board office. The Agency Subordinate concluded that adequate notice was provided to Ms. Trentham, and the informal conference proceeded in her absence.

3. During the course of her employment with Commonwealth Primary Care-Family Physicians, Richmond, Virginia, between November 2012 and March 2013, Ms. Trentham fraudulently obtained prescriptions for herself for controlled substances, including hydrocodone (Schedule II), Lorazepam (Schedule IV), and Ambien (zolpidem, Schedule IV), by calling in numerous telephone orders using the names of other practitioners in the practice without any actual orders.

4. Ms. Trentham’s employment with Commonwealth Primary Care, which began in October 2012, was terminated on March 21, 2013. Several employees reported seeing her nodding off or sleeping at her desk on numerous occasions. There was no patient harm noted.

5. A Prescription Monitoring Program report revealed that between April 15, 2010 and April 15, 2013, Ms. Trentham obtained 23 prescriptions for controlled substances from 7 different physicians and filled these prescriptions at 14 different pharmacies. These prescriptions included the fraudulent prescriptions referenced in Finding of Fact No. 3.

6. Ms. Trentham did not respond to contacts from the investigator for the Department of Health Professions.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Finding of Fact #3 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(2), (5), and (6) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(c) of the Regulations Governing the practice of Nursing.

ORDER

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. License No. 0001-167579 of Penny Trentham, R.N., is INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED.

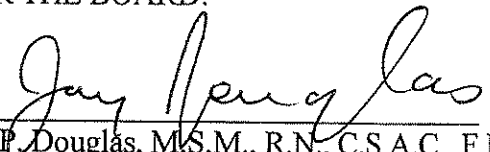
2. The license will be recorded as suspended and no longer current.

3. At such time as Ms. Trentham 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. Trentham 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.

4. This suspension applies to any multistate privilege to practice professional nursing.

Since Ms. Trentham failed to appear at the informal conference, this Order shall be considered final. Ms. Trentham 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. Trentham 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.

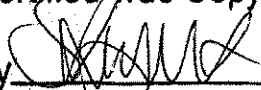
FOR THE BOARD:



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

Entered: October 8th, 2013

Certified True Copy

By 

Virginia Board of Nursing