

**VIRGINIA:**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE: MELISSA WOODS, R.N.**

**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 1, 2008, in Henrico County, Virginia. Ms. Woods was not present nor was she represented by legal counsel. Janet Younger, Ph.D., R.N., P.N.P., serving as Agency Subordinate for the Board, submitted a Recommended Decision for consideration.

On September 17, 2008, a quorum of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. Ms. Woods 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. Melissa Woods, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-178056 to practice professional nursing in Virginia on February 28, 2002. The license is scheduled to expire on August 31, 2008.
2. By letter dated June 3, 2008, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Woods notifying her that an informal conference would be held on July 1, 2008. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 8105 Kempwood Drive, Chesterfield, Virginia 23832, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing. The certified mail receipt was not returned to the Board office; however, the United States Postal Service website indicated that the Notice sent by certified mail was delivered on June 16, 2008. The Notice sent by regular mail was not returned to the Board

office. The Agency Subordinate concluded that Ms. Woods received adequate notice and the informal conference proceeded in her absence.

3. During the course of her employment with Nursefinders and while assigned to Kindred Hospital, Richmond, Virginia, in February and March, 2008, by her own admission, Ms. Woods diverted controlled substances including hydromorphone (Schedule II) and Ativan (lorazepam, Schedule IV) from patient supplies and gave them to an unauthorized individual. She also falsely documented administering diverted medications to patients.

4. Ms. Woods is unsafe to practice due to a dependence on narcotic pain medications, which she acknowledged to an investigator for the Department of Health Professions on April 3, 2008.

5. Ms. Woods falsified a professional reference form in connection with her application for employment with Nursefinders by indicating that an individual who had never been her supervisor was her supervisor at the Medical College of Virginia.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. Finding of Fact #3 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(2) and (5) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(c) and (e) of the Board of Nursing Regulations (“Regulations”).

2. Finding of Fact #4 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code.

3. Finding of Fact #5 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(2) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(e) of the Regulations.

### **ORDER**

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. License No. 0001-178056 of Melissa Woods, R.N., is INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED for a period of not less than two years.

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

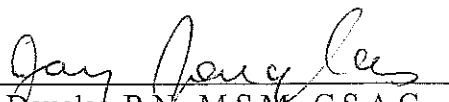
3. At such time as Ms. Woods shall petition the Board for reinstatement of her license, an administrative proceeding will be convened to determine whether she is capable of resuming the safe and competent practice of professional nursing. Ms. Woods shall be responsible for any fees that may be required 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. Woods failed to appear at the informal conference, this Order shall be considered final. Ms. Woods 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. Woods 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, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C., Executive Director, Board of Nursing, at Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Richmond, Virginia 23233. In the event that this decision is served by mail, three (3) days are added to that period.

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.

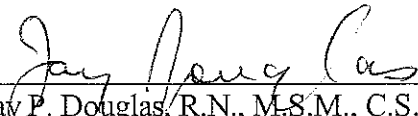
FOR THE BOARD


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

Entered: September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing Order was mailed this day to Melissa Woods at 8105 Kempwood Drive, Chesterfield, Virginia 23832.

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

  
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DATE