

**BEFORE THE OREGON
STATE BOARD OF NURSING**

In the Matter of) **STIPULATED ORDER FOR**
Eugenie Higgins, RN) **PROBATION**
)
License No. 200441018RN) **Reference No. 14-01382**

Eugenie Higgins (Licensee) was issued a Registered Nurse license by the Oregon State Board of Nursing (Board) on June 30, 2004.

In March 2014, the Board received information that Licensee diverted narcotics from her workplace for personal use.

Licensee acknowledged she engaged in the unauthorized removal of oxycodone from her workplace multiple times while working as a nurse, and unlawfully administered the oxycodone to herself. In March 2014, Licensee entered a chemical dependency treatment program, which she successfully completed. She stated she has not used oxycodone since March 2014.

By the above actions, Licensee is subject to discipline pursuant to ORS 678.111(1)(f) and OAR 851-045-0070(2)(f), (2)(i) & (5)(d), which provide as follows:

ORS 678.111 Causes for denial, revocation or suspension of license or probation, reprimand or censure of licensee. In the manner prescribed in ORS chapter 183 for a contested case:

- (1) Issuance of the license to practice nursing, whether by examination or by indorsement, of any person may be refused or the license may be revoked or suspended or the licensee may be placed on probation for a period specified by the Oregon State Board of Nursing and subject to such condition as the board may impose or may be issued a limited license or may be reprimanded or censured by the board, for any of the following causes:
 - (f) Conduct derogatory to the standards of nursing.

OAR 851-045-0070 Conduct Derogatory to the Standards of Nursing Defined

Nurses, regardless of role, whose behavior fails to conform to the legal standard and accepted standards of the nursing profession, or who may adversely affect the health, safety, and welfare of the public, may be found guilty of conduct derogatory to the standards of nursing. Such conduct shall include, but is not limited to, the following:

- (2) Conduct related to other federal or state statute/rule violations:
 - (f) Unauthorized removal or attempted removal of narcotics, other drugs, supplies, property, or money from clients, the work place, or any person.
 - (i) Possessing, obtaining, attempting to obtain, furnishing, or administering prescription or controlled drugs to any person, including self, except as directed

by a person authorized by law to prescribe drugs.

(5) Conduct related to impaired function:

- (d) Use of drugs, alcohol or mind-altering substances to an extent or in a manner dangerous or injurious to the licensee or others or to an extent that such use impairs the ability to conduct safely the practice for which the licensee is licensed.

Licensee admits that the above allegations occurred and constitute violations of the Nurse Practice Act. Licensee wishes to cooperate with the Board in resolving the present disciplinary matter. The following will be proposed to the Oregon State Board of Nursing and is agreed to by Licensee:

Licensee shall be placed on probation effective the date the Board approves this Stipulated Order for Probation. Licensee's compliance with this Order will be monitored by the Oregon State Board of Nursing. Licensee must complete a twenty-four (24) month period of probation to begin upon Licensee's return to practice, monitored as outlined below. Licensee must practice a minimum of sixteen (16) hours per week, and no more than a maximum of one (1.0) FTE. Licensee must practice in a setting where Licensee can exercise the full extent of Licensee's scope of practice, in order to demonstrate Licensee's competence. Limited overtime may be approved on occasion, at the discretion of Board staff. Any period in which Licensee does not practice in the state of Oregon will not count toward the probationary period.

Licensee shall comply with the following terms and conditions of probation:

1. Licensee shall not violate the Nurse Practice Act (ORS 678) or the rules adopted thereunder.
2. Licensee shall have thirty-six (36) months from Board's acceptance of this Order to complete twenty-four (24) months of monitored practice.
3. Licensee shall notify Board staff, in writing, prior to any change of address or employment setting during the probation period.
4. Licensee shall maintain an active license.
5. Licensee shall inform Board staff in advance of any absences from Oregon and/or any move from Oregon to another licensing jurisdiction. If Licensee leaves the state and is unable to practice in the state of Oregon, Licensee's probationary status will be re-evaluated.
6. Licensee shall appear in person or by phone, to designated Board staff for interviews on a monthly basis during the probationary period. Frequency of contact may be reviewed and revised periodically at the discretion of Board staff.
7. Licensee shall notify Board staff of any citations, arrests, or convictions for any offense, whether felony, misdemeanor, violation, or citation within seven (7) days of

the occurrence.

8. Licensee will not look for, accept, or begin a new nursing position without prior approval of the Board. This includes changes of the employer itself or changes within the facility or institution.
9. Licensee shall inform current and prospective employers, including any Nurse Executive, of the probationary status of Licensee's license, the reasons for probation, and terms and conditions of probation. If Licensee's employer has a Nurse Executive, Licensee shall inform Board staff of the name of the Nurse Executive and Board staff will provide the Nurse Executive with a copy this Order.
10. Licensee shall work under the direct supervision of another licensed healthcare professional, functioning at the same or higher level of licensure, who is working in the same physical location and readily available to observe Licensee's practice and provide assistance. Licensee shall be employed in a setting where Licensee's nursing supervisor agrees to submit written evaluations of work performance (on forms provided by the Board) every three (3) months during the probationary period. The quarterly evaluation is expected to be received by Board staff within ten (10) days of the due date. If the evaluation is not timely received, Board staff will contact the employer with a reminder. If Board staff is not in receipt of the report within five (5) business days from the reminder date, Licensee may be restricted from practicing as a nurse.
11. Between quarterly reporting periods, the Nurse Executive or a person designated by Licensee's employer shall inform Board staff of any instance of Licensee's non-compliance with the terms and conditions of this Order or of any other concern regarding Licensee's work-related conduct or personal behavior that may affect Licensee's ability to perform the duties of a nurse.
12. Licensee shall notify Board staff when there is a change in status of employment, including resignations and terminations.
13. Licensee shall not have access to narcotics, carry the keys to narcotics storage, or administer narcotics under any circumstances until Licensee receives written approval from Board staff.
14. Licensee shall not work in any practice setting when on-site supervision is not available. This generally includes home health agencies, traveling agencies, float pools, temporary agencies, assisted living facilities, adult foster care, independent consulting contracts, home hospice, and night shifts outside of acute care settings.
15. Licensee shall participate in and comply with any treatment recommendations set forth by a third party evaluator approved by the Board. Within fourteen (14) days of completing treatment, Licensee shall submit to Board staff a copy of Licensee's completion certificate or discharge summary. Licensee shall attend Narcotics Anonymous (NA), Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) or similar recovery program on a weekly basis and provide proof of attendance to Board staff. Licensee shall sign any

release of information necessary to allow Board staff to communicate with Licensee's treatment provider and release Licensee's treatment records to the Board.

16. Licensee shall participate in the Board's random urine drug testing program. Failure to comply with random urine or any other requested drug test shall result in Licensee's immediate removal from nursing practice. Licensee shall submit to tests to determine the presence of unauthorized substances immediately upon request by Board staff or Licensee's employer. Licensee shall sign any release of information necessary to ensure the Board will receive the results of such testing. The presence of unauthorized substances may be considered a violation of the terms and conditions of this Order. Upon request of Board staff, Licensee shall obtain an evaluation by a Board approved chemical abuse or dependence evaluator. Licensee understands that Licensee is financially responsible for any and all costs related to testing and evaluating. Licensee's failure to maintain an account in good standing with the Board's laboratory vendor shall be considered a violation of this Order.
17. Licensee shall abstain from using alcohol and/or other intoxicating, mind altering, or potentially addictive drugs, including over-the-counter or prescription drugs while on probation, except as provided in Section 18 below. Licensee shall avoid any over-the-counter products and food items containing alcohol and/or poppy seeds.
18. Licensee may take medication for a documented medical condition provided that the medication is from a valid prescription prescribed by a person authorized by law to write such a prescription for the documented medical condition. Licensee shall notify Board staff of any prescription within seventy-two (72) hours of its issuance. Licensee shall sign any release of information necessary to allow Board staff to communicate with the prescribing person and release Licensee's records to the Board. Licensee shall discard any unused prescription medication when no longer needed or when expired.
19. Licensee shall cease practicing as a nurse upon the occurrence of a relapse, or at the request of Board staff because of a relapse or relapse behavior. Practice may resume only when approved in writing by Board staff, in consultation with Licensee's employer.
20. Licensee shall notify any and all healthcare providers of the nature of Licensee's chemical dependency to ensure that Licensee's health history is complete before receiving any treatment, including medical and dental. Licensee shall provide a copy of this Order to Licensee's healthcare providers. Licensee shall provide Board staff with the names and contact information of any and all health care providers. Licensee shall sign any release of information necessary to allow Board staff to communicate with Licensee's healthcare providers and release Licensee's medical and treatment records to the Board. Licensee is financially responsible for any costs incurred for compliance with the terms and conditions of this Order.
21. Licensee shall notify Board staff at least three (3) business days prior to leaving town or going on vacation, with the exception of a family emergency.

22. Licensee shall cooperate fully with Board staff in the supervision and investigation of Licensee's compliance with the terms and conditions of this Order.

Licensee understands that the conduct resulting in the violations of law described in this Order are considered by the Board to be of a grave nature and, if continued, constitutes a serious danger to public health and safety.

Licensee understands that in the event Licensee engages in future conduct resulting in violations of law or the Nurse Practice Act, the Board may take further disciplinary action against Licensee's license, up to and including revocation of Licensee's license to practice as a Registered Nurse.

Licensee understands that this Order will be submitted to the Board of Nursing for its approval and is subject to the Board's confirmation.

Licensee understands that by signing this Stipulated Order, Licensee waives the right to an administrative hearing under ORS 183.310 to 183.540, and to any judicial review or appeal thereof. Licensee acknowledges that no promises, representations, duress or coercion have been used to induce Licensee to sign this Order.

Licensee understands that this Order is a document of public record.

Licensee has read this Stipulated Order, understands this Order completely, and freely signs this Stipulated Order for Probation.

IT IS SO AGREED:

Eugenie Higgins, RN

Date

ORDER

IT IS SO ORDERED:

BOARD OF NURSING FOR THE STATE OF OREGON

Kay Carnegie, RN, MS
Board President

Date