

**STATE OF VERMONT
SECRETARY OF STATE
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
BOARD OF NURSING**

In re: LAUREN S. HOPPER	}	
License No. 026.0111890	}	Docket No. 2015-544 (RN)
	}	

Appearances:

Prosecutor: Rachael Allen, Esq.

Respondent: Did not appear

Hearing Officer: George K. Belcher

DEFAULT ORDER

The Hearing Officer of the Vermont Board of Nursing held a hearing pursuant to 3 VSA Sec. 129(f) in the above matter on May 31, 2016 at the Office of Professional Regulation in Montpelier, Vermont. Respondent did not attend and was not represented by counsel.

Findings of Fact

1. Respondent is licensed as a Licensed Registered Nurse and is therefore subject to the regulatory authority of this Board. 3 V.S.A. §§ 129, 129a, 26 V.S.A. Chapter 28, and the Administrative Rules of the Board of Nursing, and the Rules of the Office of Professional Regulation. (Paragraph #2 of the Charges alleged that the Respondent was licensed as a Licensed Practical Nurse but that was an error and the docket sheet and the license number indicate that the Respondent was licensed in 2015 as a Registered Nurse.)
2. Charges were filed in this matter on March 2, 2016. A copy of the Specification of Charges is attached to this Default Order. On March 2, 2016 the Respondent was sent a Notice of Charges in this matter by certified mail and first class mail to the address of the Respondent which was on file with the Office of Professional Regulation. The specification of charges were unclaimed by the Respondent as shown by return notice received by the Office of Professional Regulation on April 5, 2016.
3. OPR Rule 3.3 requires that an Answer be filed within 20 days of the date on which the notice of charges was mailed by the Director.
4. As of the date of the default hearing (May 31, 2016), no answer to the charges was filed.
5. On April 19, 2016 a notice was sent to the Respondent advising her of the hearing before the Board to find her in default and advising her that, "If you wish to contest the charges you must contact the office immediately at (802) 828-2367 and show good cause for failing to answer the charges against you." This notice was mailed by certified mail and by regular mail. The regular mail notice and the certified mail receipt were returned showing that they were "unclaimed/unable to forward" on May 19, 2016.

6. Respondent has not filed an answer to the charges, nor any communication concerning good cause for failure to answer. She did not appear at the hearing on default. No contact was made by the Respondent to the attorney for the State indicating that the Respondent intended to contest the charges. Upon consideration of the Prosecution's presentation and taking notice of the OPR file, the Hearing Officer of the Board finds Respondent to be in Default. The allegations contained in the Specification of Charges (except as noted in paragraph one above) are therefore treated as the facts on which the Board may issue an order of professional discipline. OPR Rule 3.4, 3 V.S.A. § 809(d), and 3 V.S.A. § 814(c).
7. It is specifically found that On 28 October, 2015 the Arizona State Board of Nursing found that the Respondent had committed unprofessional conduct by a pattern of failure to maintain minimum standards of acceptable practice, abandoning or neglecting a patient and failing to take appropriate action to safeguard a patient's welfare. That Board rejected a pending license application and revoked a temporary license as a registered nurse for the Respondent.
8. It was the recommendation of the State in this matter that the Respondent's license be INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED and that the license be made subject to conditions if reinstated.

Conclusions of Law

Respondent has received adequate or constructive notice of the charges in this matter as indicated by the Board's file and the Prosecution's presentation. Because Respondent has failed to answer the charges, the factual allegations in the Specification of Charges are treated as if proved. O.P.R. Rule 3.4. Accordingly, the Board may find, based up the finding of Default from this Default Hearing held pursuant to 3 V.S.A. §809(d), that Respondent has engaged in the unprofessional conduct alleged in the Specification of Charges.

Proposed Order

In accordance with the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and consistent with the recommendation by the State, the Board does **INDEFINITELY SUSPEND** the license of the Respondent, effective as of the date of the entry of the order of the Board.

Appeal Rights

This is a final administrative determination by the Vermont Board of Nursing. A party aggrieved by a final decision of a board may appeal this decision by filing a written Notice of Appeal with the Director of the Office of Professional Regulation, Vermont Secretary of State, 89 Main St., Fl. 3, Montpelier, VT 05620-3402 within 30 days of the entry of this Order. If an appeal is filed, the Director of the Office of Professional Regulation shall assign the case to an appellate officer. The review shall be conducted on the basis of the record created before the board. In cases of alleged irregularities in procedure before the board, not shown in the record, proof on that issue may be taken by the appellate officer. 3 V.S.A. §§ 129(d) and 130a.

The Hearing Officer reports the above facts, conclusions of law, and the finding of DEFAULT to the Board with the recommendation that the Board approve them and enter the Order as above.

Dated this 2nd day of June, 2016.


George K. Belcher
Hearing Officer of the Vermont Board of Nursing

ORDER OF THE BOARD

The Vermont Board of Nursing considered the report of findings of fact and conclusions of law at its meeting on 6/13/16. After considering the report, the Board takes the following action:

- / / Rejects the report and schedules the matter for hearing.
- / / Schedules the matter for additional evidence.
- /X Accepts the report, adopts the findings of fact and conclusions of law, and orders the recommended discipline as set forth above.

SO ORDERED.

Vermont Board of Nursing

By: 
Jeanine Carr, RN, Chair
Vermont Board of Nursing

Date: 6/13, 2016

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
DATE OF ENTRY: 6/13/16

**STATE OF VERMONT
SECRETARY OF STATE
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
BOARD OF NURSING**

IN RE:

Lauren Hopper

License No. 026.0111890

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Docket No. 2015-544

SPECIFICATION OF CHARGES

NOW COMES the State of Vermont and makes the following Charges against the Respondent, Lauren Hopper:

Board Authority

1. The Vermont State Board of Nursing (the "Board") has authority to issue warnings or reprimands; suspend, revoke, limit, or condition current licenses; or prevent the renewal of lapsed licenses if, after disciplinary hearing, the Board finds that the Respondent has engaged in unprofessional conduct. 3 V.S.A. § 129(a); 3 V.S.A. § 129a; 3 V.S.A. § 814(d); 26 V.S.A. Chapter 28; the Administrative Rules of the Board of Nursing (the "ARBN"); and the Rules of the Office of Professional Regulation.

Statement of Facts

2. Lauren Hopper (the "Respondent") of Burlington, Vermont is licensed by the State of Vermont as a Licensed Practical Nurse ("LPN") under license number 026.0111890. This license was originally issued on or about August 10, 2015, and expires on or about March 31, 2017.
3. On or about October 28, 2015, the Arizona State Board of Nursing issued an order denying the Respondent's application to practice as a registered nurse and revoking any temporary license issued to Respondent. In the Matter of Lauren Sheree Hopper, Order of Denial No. 121251.
4. The Arizona State Board of Nursing found that Respondent engaged in unprofessional conduct. See Attachment A.
5. The conduct for which the Respondent was disciplined in Arizona would constitute unprofessional conduct in this state.
6. The application of consistent and commensurate professional discipline between and among licensing jurisdictions tends to promote professional accountability and patient safety and is in the interest of public protection.

STATE OF VERMONT



Prosecuting Attorney
Office of
Professional Regulation
89 Main Street
3rd Floor
Montpelier, VT
05620-3402

Charges

7. The act(s), omission(s), and/or circumstance(s) described above constitute grounds for discipline because the Respondent has committed unprofessional conduct in violation of:
- a. 3 V.S.A. §129(a)(5) (The Board may discipline any licensee or refuse to license any person who has had a license application denied or license revoked, suspended, limited, conditioned or otherwise disciplined by a licensing agency in another jurisdiction for conduct which would constitute unprofessional conduct in this state, or has surrendered a license while under investigation for unprofessional conduct);
 - b. 3 V.S.A §129a(b)(1) and (2) (Failure to practice competently by reason of any cause on a single occasion or on multiple occasions may constitute unprofessional conduct, whether actual injury to a client, patient, or customer has occurred. Failure to practice competently includes: (1) performance of unsafe or unacceptable patient or client care; or (2) failure to conform to the essential standards of acceptable and prevailing practice);
 - c. 3 V.S.A. §129a(a)(3) (Failure to comply with provisions of federal or State statutes or rules governing the practice of the profession);
 - d. 3 V.S.A. §129a(a)(15) (Failure to exercise independent professional judgment in the performance of licensed activities when that judgment is necessary to avoid action repugnant to the obligations of the profession);
 - e. 26 V.S.A §1582(a)(3) (Engages in conduct of a character likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public); and

Relief Requested

WHEREFORE, the license of Lauren Hopper should be revoked, suspended, reprimanded, conditioned, or otherwise disciplined.

DATED at Montpelier, Vermont this 2ND day of March, 2016.

STATE OF VERMONT



Prosecuting Attorney
Office of
Professional Regulation
89 Main Street
3rd Floor
Montpelier, VT
05620-3402

STATE OF VERMONT
SECRETARY OF STATE

By: Rau
Rachel Allen
State Prosecuting Attorney

BEFORE THE ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION FOR
REGISTERED NURSE LICENSURE BY
ENDORSEMENT OF:

LAUREN SHEREE HOPPER

ORDER OF DENIAL
NO. 1212051

On May 14, 2015, the Arizona State Board of Nursing ("Board") considered the application for licensure of Lauren Sheree Hopper ("Applicant").

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On or about November 9, 2012 Applicant applied for registered nurse licensure by Endorsement, and was granted Arizona TRN 176731, which expired January 31, 2013.

Applicant began work for Sunbelt Staffing, Oldsmar, FL and assigned to Yuma Regional Medical Center, Yuma AZ ("YRMC"), on or about October 3, 2012 on her Tennessee multistate compact license.

2. In or around December, 2012, the Board received a complaint from the YRMC Director of Tower 2/2 West Medical unit alleging that while employed by Sunbelt Staffing and assigned to YRMC, Applicant, while working on her multistate compact license from Tennessee and temporary license TRN176731, failed to properly medicate or communicate/document patient changes to the physician or other staff appropriately for Patient A, a 73 year old female with a diagnosis of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and diabetes mellitus; failed to communicate/document patient changes to the physician or other staff appropriately for Patient B, a 75 year old female a diagnosis of asthma, congestive heart failure and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; and failed to document

or carry out physician's verbal orders for Patient C, a 69 year old male with a diagnosis of cerebrovascular accident (CVA) and respiratory insufficiency, resulting in termination of Applicant's travel contract in or around December, 2012. Based upon the information received, the Board initiated an investigation.

3. On or about December 12, 2012, while employed as a RN by Sunbelt Staffing Service and assigned to YRMC, Applicant failed to assess Patient A, a 73 year old female diabetic patient, for signs of hypoglycemia, and administered three ordered insulin doses within 6 hours when the patient did not eat and where the patient's respiratory condition required support (BiPAP) that compromised oral intake, in violation of the standard of care that patients receiving insulin be assessed for signs and symptoms of hypoglycemia when decreased nutritional intake is noted.

4. On or about December 12, 2012, while employed as a RN by Sunbelt Staffing Service and assigned to YRMC, Applicant violated the standard of care by administering an ordered dose of Lopressor 12.5 mg, an antihypertensive medication, at 9:00 am to Patient B, a 75 year old female with a diagnosis of asthma, congestive heart failure and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, when the Patient a's blood pressure at 7:11 am was 94/52 and two previous doses had been held, without retaking the blood pressure or contacting the physician regarding a hypotensive blood pressure of 94/52. The standard of care is to assess the patient with a potential for hypotension before administering an antihypertensive and communicate with the ordering physician regarding the patient's condition.

5. On or about December 13, 2012, while employed as a RN by Sunbelt Staffing Service and assigned to YRMC, Applicant left Patient B in a medical crisis situation with a resource team to go to lunch, and refused to return to the unit at the Resource Nurse's

request to provide report to Patient B's receiving nurse in Intensive Care Unit, in violation of the Standard of Care, which requires that, when a nurse's assigned patient is decompensating, her responsibility is to remain engaged in the care of the patient along with other members of healthcare team.

6. On or about December 13, 2012, while employed as a RN by Sunbelt Staffing Service and assigned to YRMC, Applicant failed to note and carry out a verbal physician order for changing of a urinary catheter and discontinuing a Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC line) for Patient C, a 69 year old male with a diagnosis of cerebrovascular accident (CVA) and respiratory insufficiency.

7. At its May, 2015 meeting, the Board voted that "based upon the findings of fact and statute/rule violations identified in the investigative report, grant licensure upon meeting all licensure requirements and signing a Consent Agreement for a Decree of Censure. If not signed within 30 days, deny licensure." The consent agreement was mailed to Applicant at her address of record on May 29, 2015, and the correspondence was returned on or about June 23, 2015, marked "undeliverable."

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

In light of the above Findings of Fact, the Board has cause to deny the application for licensure of Lauren Sheree Hopper, pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1663(A) and (B), as defined in A.R.S. § 32-1601(22)"Unprofessional conduct" includes the following whether occurring in this state or elsewhere: (d) Any conduct or practice that is or might be harmful or dangerous to the health of a patient or the public; and (j) violating a rule that is adopted by the board pursuant to this chapter (effective August 2, 2012), specifically: Arizona Administrative Code ("A.A.C.") Rules-4-19-403 (1) a pattern of failure to maintain minimum standards of acceptable and

prevailing nursing practice; (5) abandoning or neglecting a patient who requires immediate nursing care without making reasonable arrangement for continuation of care; (9) Failing to take appropriate action to safeguard a patient's welfare or follow policies and procedures of the nurse's employer designed to safeguard the patient; (31) practicing in any other manner that gives the Board reasonable cause to believe the health of a patient or the public may be harmed (effective January 31, 2009), and Rule 4-19- 308(B) a licensee or applicant shall notify the Board in writing or electronically through the Board website of any change in mailing address within 30 days.

ORDER

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the application of Lauren Sheree Hopper for a license to practice as a registered nurse in the State of Arizona is denied and any temporary license issued to Applicant is hereby revoked. Pursuant to A.A.C. R4-19-609, the effective date of the Order of Denial is upon expiration of the time for filing an appeal, 30 days after the date of service of the Order of Denial.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Applicant is not eligible to reapply for said license pursuant to A.A.C. R4-19-404 for at minimum, five years from the effective date of the Order of Denial.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Applicant shall immediately cease and desist the practice of nursing in the State of Arizona and is not eligible to practice nursing in Arizona under the privilege of any Compact state without prior approval from the Arizona Board of Nursing.

PURSUANT TO A.R.S. § 41-1092.03, any person aggrieved by this Order may apply to the Board, in writing, within thirty days of receipt and request a public hearing with respect to this Order. If you request a public hearing with respect to this Order, you also have the right to request an informal settlement conference by filing a written request with the Board, pursuant to

A.R.S. § 41-1092.06, no later than 20 days before the scheduled hearing. The conference will be held within 15 days after receipt of your request. Please note that you waive any right to object to the participation of the Board's representative in the final administrative decision of the matter if it is not settled at the conference. For answers to questions regarding the appeals process, contact the Hearing Department at (602) 771-7844.

Dated this 28th day of October, 2015.

SEAL

ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF NURSING



Joey Ridenour, R.N., M.N., F.A.A.N.
Executive Director

JR/RK:ld

COPY mailed this 28th day of October, 2015, by First Class Mail and by Certified Mail No. 7015 0640 0007 1010 7825 to:

Lauren Sheree Hopper
240a Mookua Street
Kailua, HI 96734

COPY mailed this 28th day of October, 2015, by First Class Mail and by Certified Mail No. 7015 0640 0007 1010 7832 to:

Lauren Sheree Hopper
3003 N. Druid Hills Rd NE
Atlanta, GA 30319

By: Lynette Drafton
Legal Secretary