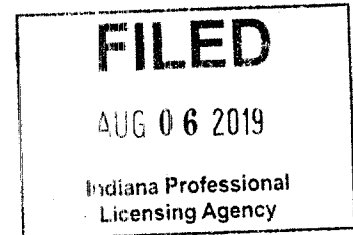


BEFORE THE INDIANA STATE
BOARD OF NURSING
CAUSE NUMBER: 2019 NB 0175

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF:)
TRACY M. SHARP, R.N.,)
LICENSE NO: 28163206A)



SUMMARY SUSPENSION ORDER

The Indiana State Board of Nursing (“Board”), pursuant to the authority of Ind. Code § 4-21.5-4-1 and Ind. Code § 25-1-9-10, by a vote of 5 - 0 - 0, at its regularly scheduled meeting on June 20, 2019, in the Auditorium of the Indiana Government Center South, 302 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana., **SUMMARILY SUSPENDS** the nursing license held by Tracy M. Sharp, R.N. (“Respondent”), for ninety (90) days, as the Board finds that an emergency exists and that Respondent represents a clear and immediate danger to the public health and safety if allowed to continue to practice as a nurse in the State of Indiana.

The State of Indiana was represented by Melinda Pickett, Deputy Attorney General. Respondent failed to appear in person or by counsel. Respondent was given notice of the hearing via phone, email, and Respondent appeared in person at the hearing location on the hearing date but was not present when the hearing was called.

This **NON-FINAL** emergency order is based on evidence supporting the following findings:

1. This Board has jurisdiction to suspend Respondent’s license in accordance with the provisions of Ind. Code § 4-21.5-4 and Ind. Code § 25-1-9-10.
2. Respondent is a Registered Nurse (“R.N.”) in the State of Indiana having been issued license number 28163206A by endorsement on March 2, 2005.
3. Respondent’s address on file with the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency (“IPLA”) is 19461 Rocky Beach Drive, Noblesville, Indiana 46062.

4. On or about June 12, 2019, Respondent was pulled over for a traffic stop in Portage County, Ohio. Respondent was in her vehicle alone. The case report completed by Deputy Robert Clouden of the Portage County Sheriff's Department indicated as follows:

- a. Upon the officer making contact with Respondent, the officer noticed Respondent's hands trembling, heavy breathing and her carotid artery rapidly pulsating;
- b. Respondent advised that she was traveling from Indiana where she lives to Pennsylvania where she works;
- c. Respondent indicated that she works in the emergency room at a hospital in Pennsylvania and indicated that it was the only job she could obtain at the time;
- d. Respondent reported that the only medications in her vehicle were water pills, a cold medication, probiotics and vitamins. Respondent stated that she does not smoke marijuana or use illegal substances;
- e. A K-9 searched the exterior of the vehicle which resulted in a positive alert for the presence of narcotic odor;
- f. A search of the interior of the vehicle yielded a bag that contained a glass vial of 2ml liquid Fentanyl, prescription medications bearing Respondent's name and an orange journal containing Respondent's various nursing licenses from a variety of states. The vial of Fentanyl was approximately a quarter full;
- g. Respondent reported to the officer that she forgot to "waste" the medication at work and had traveled from Pennsylvania to Indiana with the vial and back;

- h. Respondent was detained and the search continued yielding a full vial of 2ml liquid Fentanyl, a quarter full vial of 2ml Fentanyl, and two (2) quarter full vials of liquid Lorazepam. The vials were concealed in Respondent's clothing, not work related nursing scrubs;
- i. An additional vial full of liquid Morphine was located in a cosmetic bag in Respondent's purse;
- j. Respondent was placed under arrest;
- k. The search revealed Respondent's work badge which indicated that she was a registered nurse at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

5. On or about June 13, 2019, as a result of the allegations contained in the case report, Respondent was criminally charged in the Portage County Municipal Court in Ohio under cause number R2019-CRA-1452. The charges outlined in the Complaints are:

- a. two (2) counts of Trafficking in Drugs, Felony of the Fourth Degree. The Complaint alleges that Respondent was trafficking three (3) vials of liquid Fentanyl and one (1) vial of liquid Morphine.
- b. one (1) count of Possession of Fentanyl, Felony of the Fourth Degree. The Complaint alleges that Respondent was in possession of three (3) vials of liquid Fentanyl.
- c. one (1) count of Trafficking in Drugs, Felony of the Fifth Degree. The Complaint alleges that Respondent was trafficking two (2) vials of liquid Lorazepam.
- d. one (1) count of Possession of Drugs, Felony of the Fifth Degree. The Complaint alleges that Respondent was in possession of one (1) vial of liquid Morphine.

6. Respondent was subsequently released from the Portage County, Ohio jail on June 13, 2019 on bond.

7. Due to the above facts, Respondent represents a clear and immediate danger to the public health and safety if allowed to practice as a licensed practical nurse in Indiana.

WHEREFORE, RESPONDENT IS ORDERED to immediately cease and desist all acts constituting the practice of Nursing for ninety (90) days.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent shall immediately surrender all indicia of licensure, including her pocket license and wall license, to the Board in care of Indiana Professional Licensing Agency, 402 West Washington Street, Room W072, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

SO ORDERED, this 6th day of August, 2019; this **Order is effective as of the 20th day of June, 2019.** **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that a hearing for extension of the summary suspension be scheduled for **September 19, 2019.**

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By: Maureen Bennett
for Kim Cooper, R.N.
Board President
Indiana State Board of Nursing

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of the "Summary Suspension Order" has been duly served upon:

Tracy Sharp
19461 Rocky Beach Drive
Noblesville, Indiana 46062
Service by US Mail

Melinda Pickett
Indiana Government Center South, Fifth Floor
302 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2770
Service by Email

Aug 6, 2014
Date

Lisa Chapman
Lisa Chapman, Litigation Coordinator

Indiana State Board of Nursing
Indiana Government Center South
402 West Washington St., Room W072
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: 317-234-2043
Fax: 317-233-4236
Email: pla2@pla.in.gov

Explanation of Service Methods

Personal Service: by delivering a true copy of the aforesaid document(s) personally.

Service by U.S. Mail: by serving a true copy of the aforesaid document(s) by First Class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid.

Service by Email: by sending a true copy of the aforesaid document(s) to the individual's electronic mail address.