

BEFORE THE INDIANA STATE
BOARD OF NURSING
CAUSE NUMBER: 2019 NB 0310

FILED

DEC 31 2019

Indiana Professional
Licensing Agency

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF:)
LISA HELMERICH, R.N., A.P.N.,)
LICENSE NO: 28089995A, 71002970A)

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 November 21, 2019, in Conference Room A of the Indiana Government Center South, 302 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana., **SUMMARILY SUSPENDS** the nursing license held by Lisa Helmerich, R.N., A.P.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 Ryan Eldridge for Melinda Pickett, Deputy Attorney General. Respondent failed to appear in person or by counsel. Respondent was given notice of the hearing via phone and email.

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 28089995A by examination on September 7, 1984.
3. Respondent is an Advanced Practical Nurse ("A.P.N.") in the State of Indiana having been issued license number 71002970A on July 10, 2009.

4. Respondent's address on file with the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency ("IPLA") is 979 Highway 261, Boonville, Indiana 47601.

5. This Board has jurisdiction to suspend the Respondent's license in accordance with the provisions of Ind. Code ch. 4-21.5-4 and Ind. Code § 25-1-9-10.

6. On August 15, 2018, Respondent was charged with one (1) count of Operating a Vehicle with Alcohol Concentration of 0.15 or More, a Class A Misdemeanor and one (1) count of Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated, a Class A Misdemeanor in the Warrick Superior Court No. 1 under cause number 87D01-1808-CM-000931. The probable cause affidavit alleged that Respondent was pulled over on August 11, 2018, and blew a .38% BAC on the portable breathalyzer. A chemical test was then conducted and registered a .211% BAC. During a search of Respondent's vehicle a vodka bottle was located in the console, an open Hydrochloride pill packet was located on the floor board along with unopened moonshine jars and a cup that contained a bloody mary.

7. On August 31, 2018, Respondent pled guilty to Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated, a Class C Misdemeanor, the other charge was dropped. Respondent's plea was taken under advisement for a period of one (1) year and conditionally deferred the proceedings as long as Respondent complied with a year of the Warrick County Pre-Trial Deferral Program and Court Substance Abuse Program. On or about August 30, 2019, the case was dismissed due to Respondent's compliance with the deferral program.

8. On September 17, 2019, at approximately 7:48 a.m., Respondent reported to work at the Gibson Coal Health Center located in Owensville, Indiana. Another employee at the clinic smelled alcohol on Respondent's breath and asked to check Respondent's sugar levels to check for diabetic complications and Respondent refused. The employee suggested

that Respondent call her husband to take Respondent home but instead Respondent got in her vehicle. Two other employees offered to drive Respondent home, but she refused.

9. On September 19, 2019, Respondent was charged with one (1) count of Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated with 0.15% Alcohol or more, a Class A Misdemeanor in the Gibson County Superior Court under cause number 26D01-1909-CM-000927. The probable cause affidavit alleged that on September 17, 2019 at approximately 8:36 a.m., Respondent was pulled over and initially denied drinking and refused a breathalyzer. Respondent eventually admitted she had wine coolers at 3:00 a.m. Respondent was arrested and a blood draw was conducted which returned a BAC at .20%.

10. On October 28, 2019, Respondent pled guilty and was convicted of one (1) count of Operating a Vehicle with Alcohol Concentration Equivalent to .15 or More. Respondent was sentenced to three hundred and sixty (360) days in the Gibson County Jail suspended but for time served to probation. Defendant was referred to Gibson County Substance Abuse Treatment Court.

11. On September 19, 2019, Respondent resigned from Gibson Health Center.

12. The Order for Specialized Driving Privileges Issued at Sentencing from Gibson Superior Court on October 28, 2019 list Respondent's employer as Pain Center, Dr. Sanapati. Respondent's CSR is currently registered to Pain Management Centers of America located in Evansville, Indiana.

13. Due to the above facts, the Respondent represents a clear and immediate danger to the public health and safety if allowed to continue to practice as a Registered Nurse and/or Advanced Practical Nurse in the State of 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 31st day of December, 2019; this **Order is effective as of the 21st day of November, 2019.** **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that a hearing for extension of the summary suspension be scheduled for **January 16, 2020.**

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF NURSING

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

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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

Lisa Helmerich
979 Highway 261
Boonville, Indiana 47601
Service by US Mail

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

12.31.2014

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
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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.