

**BEFORE THE INDIANA STATE
BOARD OF NURSING
CAUSE NO.: 202408-NUR-0153**

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF:)
)
HILLARY ELIZABETH HECKEL)
)
LICENSE NO.: 28241515A)

FILED

05/28/2025

Indiana Professional
Licensing Agency

HEARING NOTICE AND CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER

Pursuant to Ind. Code § 4-21.5-3-20, the Indiana State Board of Nursing (“Board”) issues the following Hearing Notice:

- 1) On August 5, 2024, an administrative complaint was filed before the Indiana State Board of Nursing by the State (“Petitioner”) and against the above-captioned practitioner (“Respondent”).
- 2) A final administrative hearing on this complaint is scheduled on August 21, 2025 at 11:00am EST in Conference Center Room B at 302 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204. This hearing is to determine whether the practitioner's license should be disciplined for violations alleged in the attached complaint.
- 3) The Board will be presiding as administrative law judge in this matter. The Board is empowered to hold this administrative hearing pursuant to the authority of Ind. Code ch. 25-1-9 and Ind. Code art. 4-21.5. et seq.
- 4) In preparation for the hearing, the parties shall adhere to the following dates:

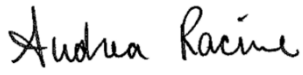
6/22/2025	On or before this date, the parties shall file any motions to schedule a prehearing settlement conference.
7/22/2025	On or before this date, each party shall file with the Board: (1) a final witness and exhibit list; and (2) copies of all proposed exhibits. Each exhibit must be

	clearly labeled with an exhibit identifier and consecutive page numbers. The State shall label its exhibits numerically (e.g., Ex. 1). Respondent shall label his or her exhibits alphabetically (e.g., Ex. A). Each party shall provide an estimate of time necessary for their case presentation. On or before this date, the parties shall file with the Board a joint stipulation as to all facts, witnesses, and exhibits not reasonably in dispute. If a party fails to stipulate to any exhibit, it shall file with the Board a statement of its objections to that exhibit. The parties shall label any joint exhibits with roman numerals (e.g., Ex. I).
8/6/2025	On or before this date, the parties shall file any motions for continuance or special requests for the hearing. Motions for continuance will only be granted for good cause shown.

- 5) If applicable, any party to the proceeding is entitled to an interpreter to assist the party throughout the proceeding pursuant to Ind. Code § 4-21.5-3-16. The party may supply their own interpreter or request that the Board supply an interpreter. Costs for the interpreter are the responsibility of the requesting party. Identification of a party's interpreter or requests to the Board for an interpreter need to be submitted to clerk@pla.in.gov at least 20 days prior to the hearing.
- 6) If at any point the parties reach a proposed agreement in resolution of this matter, the parties shall immediately file the proposed agreement with the Indiana State Board of Nursing. The filing of such an agreement suspends all deadlines in this order. A new case management order will be issued if the proposed settlement agreement is denied.
- 7) The parties may, by joint motion, request an earlier hearing date in this matter.

- 8) Communications regarding hearing schedules and procedures shall be sent via e-mail to Clerk@pla.in.gov.
- 9) Any party may be represented by counsel at the party's own expense.
- 10) A party who fails to attend or participate in a pre-hearing conference, hearing, or other later stage of this proceeding may be held in default or have the proceeding dismissed under Ind. Code § 4-21.5-3-24.
- 11) Any matters containing confidential material shall be marked "NOT FOR PUBLIC ACCESS" and submitted without redaction. Concurrent with such a filing, a version with all confidential information redacted shall be filed and marked "PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE".

SO ORDERED this 28th day of May 2025.

By:  for
Jennifer Miller, MSN, RN, President
Indiana State Board of Nursing

DISTRIBUTION

I certify that a copy of this Case Management Order has been duly served upon:

Hillary Elizabeth Heckel
[REDACTED]

Service by E-mail

Joshua Timmons
J. Timmons Law, LLC
jtimmons@jtimmonslaw.com

Service by E-mail

Natalie Stidd
Office of the Attorney General
natalie.stidd@atg.in.gov
Service by E-mail

5/28/2025

Date

Kayla Cridlin
Kayla Cridlin, Litigation Coordinator

Indiana Professional Licensing Agency
Indiana Government Center South
402 West Washington St., Room W072
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: 317-232-2960
Fax: 317-233-4236
Email: Clerk@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.

**BEFORE THE INDIANA
BOARD OF NURSING
CAUSE NUMBER: 202408-NUR-0153**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF)
)
HILLARY ELIZABETH HECKEL, R.N.)
)
LICENSE NO. 28241515A (Active))**



ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT

The State of Indiana (“Petitioner”), by counsel, Deputy Attorney General Natalie R. Stidd on behalf of the Office of the Attorney General, and pursuant to Ind. Code § 25-1-7-7, Ind. Code ch. 25-1-5, Ind. Code § 25-23-1-7, the Administrative Orders and Procedures Act, Ind. Code ch. 4-21.5-3, and Ind. Code ch. 25-1-9, files its Administrative Complaint against the Indiana practical nurse license of Hillary Elizabeth Heckel, R.N. (“Respondent”), and in support alleges and states the following:

FACTS

1. Respondent is a Registered Nurse (“RN”) in the State of Indiana, having obtained RN license number 28210269A, by examination on February 6, 2018, from the Indiana State Board of Nursing (“Board”).

2. Respondent’s address on file with the Board, as maintained by the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency (“IPLA”), is 314 Concanneau Drive, LaPorte, Indiana 46350.

3. Respondent also holds expired RN licenses from Missouri and Nevada. Respondent’s Missouri license expired on April 30, 2023, and her Nevada license expired on December 7, 2019.

4. On June 22, 2021, Respondent began employment as a RN at Brickyard Healthcare – Terrace Care Center (“Terrace Care”) in La Porte, Indiana.

5. Respondent voluntarily left on November 17, 2022, and was rehired on December 1, 2022.

6. On December 27, 2022, Respondent received and signed a Disciplinary Action for failing to follow proper controlled substance medication pass procedures.

7. On or about January 5, 2023, Respondent received and signed a Disciplinary Action for failing to adhere to attendance policies.

8. In mid-January 2023, Terrace Care initiated an investigation into Respondent's controlled substance practices after another nurse who had worked with Respondent reported concerns to the Director of Nursing ("DON"), who at the time was Tonnya LaCava, RN ("DON LaCava").

9. Terrace Care's investigation found numerous discrepancies in the medications documented as being accessed by Respondent and the medications being documented as administered on the Medication Administration Records ("MAR").

10. Respondent accessed one (1) tablet of Norco 5/325 mg for Resident T.O. on the following dates and times:

- a. January 5, 2023 at 17:45; and
- b. January 9, 2023 at 19:10.

There are no corresponding entries on Resident T.O.'s MAR as to whether the medications were administered, wasted or returned.

11. Respondent accessed one (1) tablet of Oxycodone/Acetaminophen 10/325 mg for Resident J.W. on the following dates and times:

- a. January 5, 2023 at 14:52;
- b. January 7, 2023 at 21:49;

- c. January 9, 2023 at 14:38 and 22:30; and
- d. January 11, 2023 at 15:07.

There are no corresponding entries on Resident J.W.'s MAR as to whether the medications were administered, wasted, or returned.

12. Respondent accessed one (1) tablet of Hydrocodone/Acetaminophen 5/325 mg for Resident J.J. on January 6, 2023 at 20:34. There are no corresponding entries on Resident J.J.'s MAR as to whether the medication was administered, wasted, or returned.

13. Respondent accessed one (1) tablet of Norco 5/325 mg for Resident D.S. on the following dates and times:

- a. January 9, 2023 at 16:35 and 20:40; and
- b. January 11, 2023 at 16:00.

There are no corresponding entries on Resident D.S.'s MAR as to whether the medications were administered, wasted, or returned.

14. DON LaCava requested that Respondent submit to a urine drug screen ("UDS") on or about January 17, 2023. Respondent did not submit to the UDS until January 19, 2023. Respondent's January 19, 2023 UDS resulted negative for all substances tested, which included opiates and oxycodone.

15. On January 26, 2023, Respondent resigned while she was on investigative suspension for suspicion of diversion, poor nursing practices, and misappropriation of property.

16. On October 25, 2023, Respondent submitted her online application for license renewal to the Board. Respondent answered in the negative or "N" to renewal question number 5, "Since you last renewed, have you ever been terminated, reprimanded, disciplined, or demoted in the scope of your practice as a Nurse or as another health care professional?"

17. Ind. Code § 16-18-2-199 defines a legend drug as a drug that is:
- i. subject to 21 U.S.C. 353(b)(1); or
 - ii. listed in the Prescription Drug Product List as:
 - a. published in the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations, Tenth Edition, (1990); and
 - b. revised in United States Department of Health and Human Services, Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations, Cumulative Supplement to the Tenth Edition, Number 10 (1990).

VIOLATION I

18. Paragraphs 1 through 17 are incorporated herein by reference.

19. Respondent's actions constitute a violation of Ind. Code § 25-1-9-4(a)(8)(A) in that Respondent has diverted a legend drug (as defined in Ind. Code § 16-18-2-199). Specifically, between January 5 and 11, 2023, Respondent removed hydrocodone/acetaminophen and oxycodone/acetaminophen for residents at Terrace Care, which then did not get documented as administered, wasted or returned.

VIOLATION II

20. Paragraphs 1 through 17 are incorporated herein by reference.

21. Respondent's conduct constitutes a violation of Ind. Code § 25-1-9-4(a)(3), in that Respondent has knowingly violated any state statute or rule, or federal statute or regulation, regulating nursing practice by engaging in unprofessional conduct pursuant to 848 IAC 2-2-3(1), by using unsafe judgment, technical skills, or inappropriate interpersonal behaviors in providing nursing care. Specifically, Respondent failed to document administration, waste, or return of controlled substance medication for at least five (5) residents in January 2023 at Terrace Care.

VIOLATION III

22. Paragraphs 1 through 17 are incorporated herein by reference.

23. Respondent's conduct constitutes a violation of Ind. Code § 25-1-9-4(a)(3), in that Respondent has knowingly violated any state statute or rule, or federal statute or regulation, regulating nursing practice by engaging in unprofessional conduct pursuant to 848 IAC 2-2-3(6), by falsifying, omitting, or destroying documentation of nursing actions on the official patient/client record for five (5) residents at Terrace Care, specifically, their medication administration and/or controlled substance records.

VIOLATION IV

24. Paragraphs 1 through 17 are incorporated herein by reference.

25. Respondent's conduct constitutes a violation of Ind. Code § 25-1-9-4(a)(1)(A) in that Respondent has engaged in or knowingly cooperated in fraud or material deception in order to obtain a license to practice as evidenced by Respondent failing to disclose her 2023 reprimand and investigative suspension from Terrace Care on her October 25, 2023 license renewal application.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner demands an order against the Respondent, that:

1. Imposes the appropriate disciplinary sanction;
2. Directs Respondent to immediately pay all the costs incurred in the prosecution of this case;
3. Provides any other relief the Board deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

Theodore E. Rokita
Indiana Attorney General
Attorney No. 18857-49

By: Natalie P. Stiehl

Natalie R. Stidd
Deputy Attorney General
Attorney Number: 28081-55

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of the foregoing "Administrative Complaint" has been served upon the Respondent, as listed below, by United States mail, first class postage prepaid, on this 5th of August, 2024.

Hillary Heckel
314 Concanneau Drive
LaPorte, Indiana 46350


Natalie R. Stidd
Deputy Attorney General
Attorney Number: 28081-55

Deputy Attorney General, Natalie R. Stidd
Office of the Indiana Attorney General
8720 Castle Creek Parkway East Dr., Ste. 250
Indianapolis, Indiana 46250
natalie.stidd@atg.in.gov
317-915-5343