

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL
LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION**

BOARD OF NURSING

**In Re: Lisa Sue Ireland, RN
RN Lic. # 087452-21**

**ORDER OF EMERGENCY
SUSPENSION – 07/28/22**

Docket No.: 2022-NUR-026

I. CASE SUMMARY/PROCEDURAL HISTORY:

On 07/28/22, the Board of Nursing (“Board”) reviewed a speed memorandum from the National Practitioner Databank (Nursys) alleging that Lisa Sue Ireland (“Licensee”) had diverted controlled substances from RiverRidge Center in Kennebunk, Maine in 2021. The accompanying documents with the speed memorandum show that the Licensee entered into a Consent Agreement for Warning & Probation (2 Years) with the Maine State Board of Nursing on 05/17/22, which was later amended on 07/05/22. Having no way of knowing the status of the Licensee’s sobriety and her license being active in New Hampshire, the Board voted to suspend the Licensee’s license on an emergency basis pursuant RSA 541-A:30(III), RSA 326-B:37(IV), and N.H. Code Admin. R., Title Nur 402.03(a) (“Rules”) and schedule a full disciplinary adjudicatory hearing. This Order of Emergency Suspension follows.

II. LEGAL STANDARD:

“In cases involving imminent danger to public health, safety, or welfare, the board may order the immediate suspension of a license pending an adjudicative proceeding.” RSA 326-B:37, IV. The Board has further interpreted that to mean: “[w]hen the board receives information indicating that a licensee has engaged misconduct that poses an immediate danger to public health, safety, or welfare, the board shall, pursuant to RSA 326-B:37, IV, immediately suspend such person’s license ...” Rule 402.03(a).

III. EVIDENCE PRESENTED AND FINDINGS OF FACT:

A. Evidence Presented

The Board was presented with a speed memorandum from the National Practitioner Databank (Nursys)¹. The Board also relied on its expertise in the field it regulates. A review of the evidence presented, and the reasonable inferences taken there from, allows the Board to find the following facts.

B. Findings of Fact

The Licensee is actively licensed as an RN in the state of New Hampshire. While working as an RN at RiverRidge Center in Kennebunk, Maine, the Licensee is alleged to have diverted controlled substances from the facility in February of 2021. Consequently, the Licensee was ordered to undergo an intake assessment with the Maine Medical Professionals Health Program, which recommended on 08/23/21 that she enter a 2-year agreement to monitor her nursing practices. On 05/17/22, the Licensee entered into a Consent Agreement for Warning & Probation (2 Years) with the Maine State Board of Nursing, which was amended on 07/05/22. Among other things, the Agreement places the Licensee on probation for two years, during which time she is 1) restricted to practicing in Maine in “structured settings with on-site supervision by another registered nurse (“nurse supervisor”); 2) required to maintain sobriety; 3) monitored by Maine Medical Professionals Health Program; 4) must receive certain aftercare treatment; and 5) cannot work outside the State of Maine pursuant to a multi-state privilege.

Currently, the Board has no knowledge of whether the Licensee is actively complying with the terms of her monitoring agreement and her license to practice in the State of New Hampshire is listed as “active”, regardless of her agreement not to work outside the State of Maine.

IV. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

¹ This included a License Discipline Status for the Licensee, a Discipline Case Summary Report for the Licensee, and an Appendix with attached Board Orders and Pleadings from the State of Vermont, including a 05/17/22 Consent Agreement for Warning & Probation (2 Years) and a 07/05/22 Amendment to Consent Agreement for Warning and Probation.

The Board concludes there is a reasonable basis to suspend the Licensee’s New Hampshire license on an emergency basis pursuant to RSA 326-B:37, IV. The central facts are straightforward—the Licensee is alleged to have diverted controlled substances and had significant discipline imposed against her in the State of Maine. While the consent agreement she entered into with the State of Maine Board of Nursing indicate she may not work outside the State of Maine, her license remains “active” in New Hampshire and the Board currently has no way of monitoring her progress with the Maine Medical Professionals Health Program. The Licensee also appears to have not notified the Board of the consent agreement and underlying violation. Therefore, the Licensee's alleged conduct, on its face, appears to be misconduct as defined at RSA 326-B:37, II(n), RSA 326-B:37, II(p)(1) and/or (2), RSA 326-B:37, II(q)(3), RSA 326-B:37, II (r) (*see also* Rules 402.04(d) and (e)) that also warrants immediate emergency suspension of her license pursuant to RSA 326-B:37(IV), pending a disciplinary adjudicatory hearing to be held within 10 business days.

V. ORDER:

Pursuant to RSA 541-A:30(III) and 326-B:37(IV), the Board hereby orders the immediate emergency suspension of Lisa Sue Ireland’s license as an RN, pending a follow up emergency hearing in this matter. A Notice of Emergency Hearing with an appropriate date/time shall follow forthwith.

DATED: 7/29/2022

_____/s/ Nikolas Frye _____
Hearings Examiner
Authorized Representative of the Board of Nursing-
New Hampshire Office of
Professional Licensure & Certification
7 Eagle Square
Concord, NH 03301