

**STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING**

**In The Matter of:**

**RaDonda Vaught,  
R.N. License No. 205702,**

**Respondent.**

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**Docket #: 17.19-191087A**

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**FINAL ORDER**

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This matter came to be heard before the Tennessee Board of Nursing (Board) on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> days of July, 2021, pursuant to a Notice of Hearing and Charges and Memorandum for Assessment of Civil Penalties and Amended Notice of Hearing filed against the Respondent. Presiding at the hearing was the Honorable D. Kim Summers, Administrative Law Judge, assigned by the Secretary of State. The State was represented by Nathaniel Flinchbaugh, Senior Associate General Counsel. The Respondent was present and represented by Peter Strianse, Esq.

After consideration of the Notice of Hearing and Charges and Memorandum for Assessment of Civil Penalties, testimony of witnesses, argument of counsel, and the record as a whole, the Board finds as follows:

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**FINDINGS OF FACT**

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1. Respondent has been at all times pertinent hereto licensed by the Board as a registered nurse in the State of Tennessee, having been granted license number 205702 on February 13, 2015 which currently has an expiration date of January 31, 2022. Respondent's registered nurse license bears a multistate privilege to practice nursing in states which have entered into the Interstate Nurse Licensure Compact.

2. On or about December 26, 2017, Respondent was employed as a "help-all" nurse at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.
3. Patient #1 was admitted to the hospital on December 24, 2017 with a diagnosis of a brain bleed.
4. Patient #1's physician ordered that Patient #1 undergo a Positive Emission Tomography (PET) scan. At the time of her arrival in Radiology, Patient #1 was awake, alert, and oriented.
5. The radiology technician then went to the primary nurse assigned to Patient #1. The primary nurse for Patient #1 then obtained a verbal order from Patient #1's physician to receive Versed one (1) milligrams intravenously for PET scan. The primary nurse assigned to Patient #1 then called Respondent and asked her to administer Versed to Patient #1.
6. Patient #1's physician order for Versed was entered on December 26, 2017 at 2:47 P.M. The pharmacy verified the order for Versed at 2:49 P.M.
7. Respondent failed to verify the physician order with either the pharmacy or the physician. Instead, at 2:59 P.M., Respondent typed in at least the letters "VE" in the override function of the automatic dispensing cabinet. A medication with the letters "VE" popped up and Respondent removed the medication out of the cabinet.
8. Respondent actually removed Vecuronium ten (10) milligrams from the dispensing cabinet located in the Neuro Intensive Care Unit (ICU) using the override feature instead of removing the Versed, which was ordered for Patient #1.
9. Respondent did not verify the name of the medication after the medication was dispensed by the automatic dispensing machine.
10. After Respondent removed the medication, Respondent reconstituted and administered the Vecuronium at Patient #1's bedside in Radiology. Respondent did not stay with Patient #1 after administering the medication.

11. Patient #1 was found unresponsive approximately thirty (30) minutes later and required cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and mechanical ventilation.
12. Patient #1 was placed on life support and expired within twelve (12) hours following the administration of Vecuronium.
13. Respondent failed to follow two of the five rights of medication administration: right medication and right dose of medication to Patient #1.
14. Respondent failed to monitor Patient #1, after administering Vecuronium.
15. Respondent failed to document in Patient #1's medical record that she had administered Vecuronium to Patient #1.
16. On or about February 4, 2019, the Davidson County Grand Jury indicted Respondent for reckless homicide, in violation of Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-13-215, a Class D felony. Respondent was also indicted for knowing physical abuse or gross neglect of an impaired adult, in violation of Tenn. Code Ann. § 71-6-119, a Class C felony.

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### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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The Board, having jurisdiction over this matter, finds the facts in this Order are sufficient to establish that the Respondent has violated the following provisions of TENN. CODE ANN. § 63-7-101, *et seq.* and the Official Compilation Rules and Regulations of the State of Tennessee for the Board of Nursing (TENN. COMP. R. & REGS.) 1000-1-.01, *et seq.*:

17. The facts enumerated in paragraphs two (2) through sixteen (16) constitute a violation of TENN. CODE ANN. § 63-7-115(a)(1):
  - (F) Is guilty of unprofessional conduct.
18. The facts enumerated in paragraphs two (2) through sixteen (16) constitute a violation of TENN. COMP. R. & REGS. 1000-1-.13(1), which defines "unprofessional conduct, unfitness

or incompetency by reason of negligence, habits or other cause” as including, but not limited to:

- b. Failure to maintain a record for each patient which accurately reflects the nursing problems and interventions for the patient and/or failure to maintain a record for each patient which accurately reflects the name and title of the nurse providing care; and
- c. Abandoning or neglecting a patient requiring nursing care.

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### REASONS FOR THE DECISION

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It is the policy of the Board to enforce the Statutes and Rules. This nurse has been found guilty of unprofessional conduct. The disciplinary action of revocation is appropriate.

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### ORDER

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**THEREFORE**, it is **ORDERED** as follows:

- 19. Respondent’s license to practice as a registered nurse in Tennessee and the multistate privilege to practice in any other party state, pursuant to the authority vested in the Board under Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 63-7-115 and 116, shall be and is hereby **REVOKED**.
- 20. The Board has found the Respondent guilty of unprofessional conduct; for failure to maintain a record, and for abandoning or neglecting a patient in need of nursing care. As such, the Respondent is hereby assessed **three (3) Type A Civil Penalties** in the amount of **one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00)** for each violation, for a total civil penalty of **three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00)**, in accordance with Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 1000-01-.04(6). Each civil penalty represents the failure to verify the medication, failure to monitor the patient after administration, and failure to chart nursing interventions.
- 21. Respondent shall pay the costs of this action pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 63-7-115(d) and 63-1-144, and Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 1000-01-.04(11). These costs will be

established by an Assessment of Costs prepared by counsel for the Department. The Assessment of Costs shall not exceed **sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000.00)** and shall be paid in full within **thirty-six (36) months** from the issuance of the Assessment of Costs.

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#### NOTICE

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22. The discipline in this Order is formal disciplinary action and will be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB).
23. All cost payments shall be paid in *certified funds only* (**certified check, cashier's check, or money order**) to the State of Tennessee, which shall be mailed or delivered to: Disciplinary Coordinator, Tennessee Department of Health, Office of Investigations, 665 Mainstream Drive, Second Floor, Nashville, Tennessee 37243.
24. A notation shall be placed on the instrument designating that it is payable for the costs of **RaDonda Vaught, Case No. 2018054031**.
25. A violation of this Order shall constitute a separate violation, pursuant to TENN. CODE ANN. § 63-7-115(a)(1)(G), and is grounds for further disciplinary action by the Board.

**SO ORDERED** this 23rd day of July, 2021, by the Tennessee Board of Nursing.

  
Chairperson/Acting Chairperson  
Tennessee Board of Nursing

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#### RECONSIDERATION, ADMINISTRATIVE RELIEF AND JUDICIAL REVIEW


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Within fifteen (15) days after the entry of an initial or final order, a party may file a petition to the Board for reconsideration of the Final Order. If no action is taken by the Board within twenty (20) days of filing of the petition, it is deemed denied. TENN. CODE ANN. § 4-5-317.

In addition, a party may petition the Board for a stay of the Final Order within seven (7) days after the effective date of the Final Order. TENN. CODE ANN. § 4-5-316.

Finally, a party may seek judicial review by filing a petition for review in the court of competent jurisdiction, in accordance with TENN. CODE ANN. § 4-5-322, within sixty (60) days after the effective date of the Final Order. A petition for reconsideration does not act to extend the sixty (60) day period. TENN. CODE ANN. § 4-5-322. However, if the petition is granted, then the sixty (60) day period is tolled and a new sixty (60) day period commences from the effective date of the Final Order disposing of the petition. TENN. CODE ANN. § 4-5-317.

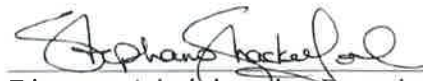
**PREPARED FOR ENTRY:**

  
Nathaniel R. Flinchbaugh (BPR # 034233)  
Senior Associate General Counsel  
Tennessee Department of Health  
Office of General Counsel  
665 Mainstream Drive, Second Floor  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243  
(615) 741-1611

**CERTIFICATE OF FILING**

Filed in the Administrative Procedures Division, Office of the Secretary of State, this the

23 day of July 2021.

  
Director, Administrative Procedures Division

### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and correct copy of this document has been served upon the Respondent's attorney, Peter J. Strianse, Tune Entrekin White, Attorneys at Law, 500 11th Avenue North, Suite 600, Nashville, Tennessee 37203, by United States mail, certified, number **7020 3160 0001 1682 0764**, return receipt requested, and by United States mail, First Class, with sufficient postage thereon to reach its destination. A copy was also served electronically to: [Pstrianse@tewlawfirm.com](mailto:Pstrianse@tewlawfirm.com); [syarbrough@tewlawfirm.com](mailto:syarbrough@tewlawfirm.com).

This 23 of July, 2021.



Nathaniel Hinchbaugh  
Senior Associate General Counsel

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