



STATE OF MAINE
 BOARD OF NURSING
 158 STATE HOUSE STATION
 AUGUSTA, MAINE
 04333-0158

PAUL R. LePAGE
 GOVERNOR

MYRA A. BROADWAY, J.D., M.S., R.N.
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IN RE: **PAULA A. THORNE, R.N.**) **DECISION & ORDER**
 of Exeter, Maine) **OF**
 License No. R053938) **REVOCATION**

INTRODUCTION

On December 2, 2010, the Maine State Board of Nursing (“Board”) met at the Board’s office located at 161 Capitol Street, Augusta, Maine. The Board reviewed the criminal matter of State of Maine vs. Paula A. Thorne regarding a criminal conviction of “Theft by Unauthorized Taking or Transfer” in the Piscataquis County Superior Court, Docket No. DOVSC-CR-2010-00010.

FACTS

1. Paula A. Thorne has been licensed as a registered professional nurse, licensed to practice in Maine since June 2007.
2. On November 8, 2010, Paula A. Thorne (“Ms. Thorne”) entered a plea of Guilty to a criminal charge of “Theft by Unauthorized Taking or Transfer,” which is a Class C felony, in the Piscataquis County Superior Court, Docket No. DOVSC-CR-2010-00010. A copy of the Docket Record is attached hereto, incorporated herein and marked as Exhibit A. The underlying facts for this conviction involve Ms. Thorne’s diversion of scheduled drugs from Mayo Regional Hospital (“Mayo”), located in Dover-Foxcroft, Maine.
3. As a registered professional nurse, Paula A. Thorne is responsible for handling and administering medications and scheduled drugs to patients.
4. Paula A. Thorne diverted scheduled drugs from Mayo and her patients at Mayo. In addition, she falsified patients’ medical records in diverting the scheduled drugs.

APPLICABLE LAW

5. Pursuant to 32 M.R.S. § 2105-A (2), “The Board may suspend or revoke a license pursuant to Title 5, section 10004.”
6. Pursuant to 5 M.R.S. § 10004(1), “...an agency may revoke, suspend or refuse to renew any license without proceedings in conformity with subchapters IV or VI when: the decision to take that action rests solely upon a finding or conviction in court of any violation which by statute is expressly made grounds for revocation.”
7. Pursuant to 32 M.R.S. § 2105-A (2) (G), the Board may suspend or revoke an individual’s nurse license when the grounds for discipline is a “conviction of a crime that involves dishonesty or false statement or that relates directly to the practice for which the licensee is licensed or conviction of a crime for which incarceration for one year or more may be imposed.”



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CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Board has the authority to suspend or revoke Paula A. Thorne's registered professional nurse license pursuant to 5 M.R.S. § 10004 (1) and 32 M.R.S. § 2105-A (2) (G). The criminal conviction described in the above-stated facts are grounds for discipline because Ms. Thorne was convicted of a crime that involves dishonesty, and the crime relates directly to the licensed practice of registered professional nursing. In addition, the recent conviction on November 8, 2010 of "Theft by Unauthorized Taking or Transfer" is a criminal conviction for which incarceration for one year or more was imposed.

In addition, the Board concluded, based upon the recent convictions and serious nature of the underlying criminal conduct, that Ms. Thorne's behavior fails to conform to legal standards and accepted standards of the nursing profession, and the conviction of crimes in the State of Maine are substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a registered professional nurse, and that such conduct reflects adversely on the health and welfare of the public.

DECISION AND ORDER

A motion was made and seconded to immediately revoke Paula A. Thorne's registered professional nurse license pursuant to 5 M.R.S. § 10004 (1) and 32 M.R.S. § 2105-A (2) (G). By a unanimous vote of the Board, Paula A. Thorne's registered professional nurse license is revoked.

RECORD VOTE

DOROTHY MELANSON, RN	Affirmative
MARGARET HOURIGAN, EdD, BC	Affirmative
CARMEN CHRISTENSEN, RN	Affirmative
ELAINE DUGUAY, LPN	Affirmative
BRUCE R. O'DONNELL, CRNA	Affirmative
LYNN F. TURNBULL, RN	Affirmative
ROBIN BROOKS	Affirmative

DATED: January 23, 2011


DOROTHY MELANSON, Chair
MAINE STATE BOARD OF NURSING

NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS

Paula A. Thorne may appeal this Decision and Order summarily revoking her license by filing a petition for review of final agency action in the Superior Court pursuant to 5 M.R.S. §§ 11001, *et seq.* within thirty (30) days after receipt of notice of this Decision and Order. Any other person aggrieved by this Decision and Order may seek judicial review in like manner by filing a petition for review in Superior Court within forty (40) days after the date of this Decision and Order.