

**VIRGINIA:**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE:**

**DEBRA R. SWINGLE, R.N.**

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Pursuant to §§ 2.2-4020, 2.2-4024(F), and 54.1-2400(11) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code"), Debra R. Swingle, R.N., who holds License No. 0001-111701 to practice professional nursing in Virginia, which expires on March 31, 2012, is hereby given notice that a formal administrative hearing will be held in the presence of a panel of the Board of Nursing. The hearing will be held on January 24, 2011, 2011, at 2:00 p.m., at the offices of the Department of Health Professions, Board of Nursing, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 201, Henrico, Virginia 23233, at which time Ms. Swingle will be afforded the opportunity to be heard in person or by counsel.

At the hearing, Ms. Swingle has the following rights, among others: the right to representation by counsel; the right to have witnesses subpoenaed and to present witnesses on her behalf; the right to present documentary evidence; and the right to cross-examine adverse witnesses. If Ms. Swingle desires any witnesses to appear on her behalf, she must notify the Director of Administrative Proceedings, Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233, in accordance with the Instructions for Requesting Subpoenas.

The purpose of the hearing is to inquire into evidence that Debra R. Swingle, R.N., may have violated certain laws and regulations governing professional nursing practice in Virginia, as more fully set forth in the Statement of Particulars below.

**STATEMENT OF PARTICULARS**

The Board alleges that Debra R. Swingle, R.N., may be unsafe to practice professional nursing due to mental illness, as evidenced by the following:

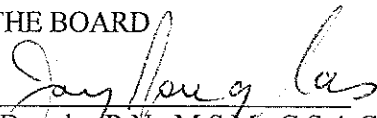
1. During the course of her employment with Southside Regional Medical Center, Petersburg, Virginia:

a. Ms. Swingle may have violated § 54.1-3007(5) and (6) of the Code in that on several occasions between March 9, 2009, and May, 2009, she became emotionally unstable while caring for patients and had to be escorted from their rooms.

b. Ms. Swingle may have violated § 54.1-3007(2), (5) and (8) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(f) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing in that, on or about May 20, 2009, she refused to call a code blue on a patient who was clearly in cardiac distress. Technicians were unable to obtain the patient's blood pressure; he had a non-palpable carotid and femoral pulse, exhibited pale oral mucosa, and had a pale, dusty skin color. Ms. Swingle maintained that the patient was experiencing low blood sugar and attempted to interfere with the code team by waving her hands above the patient.

2. Ms. Swingle may have violated § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code in that on or about September 17, 2009, she was admitted to Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital on a temporary detention order. Ms. Swingle was discharged on September 23, 2009, with a diagnosis of psychosis. On October 20, 2009, during an interview with an investigator from the Department of Health Professions, Ms. Swingle's psychiatrist stated that Ms. Swingle was in denial about her illness and that she is not fit to practice nursing at this time.

FOR THE BOARD

  
Jay P. Douglas R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C.  
Executive Director for the  
Board of Nursing

ENTERED:

December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010