

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: SHEILA MARIE STOKES, R.N.
LicenseNumber: 0001-152552
Case Number: 178830

ORDER

JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4020, 2.2-4024(F), and 54.1-2400(11), a panel of the Virginia Board of Nursing ("Board") held a formal administrative hearing on November 16, 2017, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Sheila Marie Stokes, R.N., may have violated certain laws and regulations governing the practice of professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Sheila Marie Stokes, R.N., appeared at this proceeding and was not represented by legal counsel.

NOTICE

By letter dated October 20, 2017, the Board sent a Notice of Formal Hearing ("Notice") to Ms. Stokes notifying her that a formal administrative hearing would be held on November 16, 2017. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to the legal address of record on file with the Board.

Upon consideration of the evidence, the Board adopts the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and issues the Order contained herein.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On March 13, 1997, the Board issued License Number 0001-152552 to Sheila Marie Stokes, R.N. to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Said license is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2017. At all times relevant hereto, said license was in full force and effect. Her primary state of residence is Virginia.

2. Ms. Stokes has a history of alcohol abuse and identified herself as an alcoholic.

3. From January 25, 2017, through January 30, 2017, Ms. Stokes was treated for alcohol withdrawal at Riverside Walter Reed Hospital, Gloucester, Virginia, and from January 30, 2017, through February 28, 2017, she was treated for alcohol use disorder and major depressive disorder at Williamsville Wellness.

4. From August 21, 2015, until August 27, 2015, Ms. Stokes was treated for alcohol withdrawal at Poplar Springs Hospital, Petersburg, Virginia, and from August 27, 2015, until September 24, 2015, she was treated for alcohol use disorder at Williamsville Wellness.

5. Ms. Stokes told the Department of Health Professions (“DHP”) investigator that she never used alcohol prior to going to work and said that she had a number of no call/no show issues at work because of her drinking, and that she would also call out of work after her alcohol consumption.

6. In an interview with the DHP investigator, Ms. Stokes’ therapist stated that she believed Ms. Stokes to be capable of practicing safely if she remains sober and stays in treatment.

7. Ms. Stokes stated she is aware she must continue in treatment in order to stay sober. She identified her date of sobriety as January 26, 2017. She told the Board she attends Alcoholics Anonymous meetings at least twice a week, meets with her psychiatrist once a month, and meets with her therapist two times a week. She told the Board she has a sponsor and has a strong support system, including her sister and her son and daughter-in-law. She stated that in order to practice she is aware she will not be able to consume alcohol for the rest of her life.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Findings of Fact Nos. 2 through 4 constitute a violation of Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(6).

2. Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400.2(K), the Board considered whether to disclose or not disclose Ms. Stokes’ health records or health services.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Virginia Board of Nursing hereby ORDERS as follows:

1. Sheila Marie Stokes, R.N., is placed on PROBATION subject to the following terms and conditions:
 - a. The period of probation shall begin on the date this Order is entered and shall end at such time as Ms. Stokes has completed two years of active professional nursing practice. The license shall be reinstated without restriction at the completion of the probationary period unless there is a pending investigation or unresolved allegation involving a violation of law or regulation or any term or condition of probation. In that event, the period of probation shall be continued indefinitely until such time as the Board makes a case decision in accordance with the Administrative Process Act (Virginia Code § 2.2-4000 et. seq.) and Virginia Code § 54.1-2400(9).
 - b. Ms. Stokes shall not use alcohol or any other mood altering chemical, except as prescribed by a health care practitioner with whom she has a bona fide practitioner/patient relationship and for accepted medicinal or therapeutic purposes. Should she be prescribed any Schedule II – V controlled medication, a written report from the prescribing practitioner shall be provided to the Board within ten days of the date the medication is prescribe.
 - c. Ms. Stokes shall attend Alcoholics Anonymous and/or Narcotics Anonymous and/or Caduceus recovery support groups or other groups acceptable to the Board three times per week and shall have written evidence of attendance by a sponsor or contact person sent to the Board monthly, by the last day of the month of attendance.
 - d. Ms. Stokes shall submit “Self-Reports” which include a current address, telephone number, and verification of any and all current practice employment. These reports shall also include any

changes in practice employment status. Self-Reports must be submitted whether Ms. Stokes has current practice employment or not.

e. The reports shall be submitted on a quarterly basis to the Board, with the first report due no later than 60 days from the date of entry of the Order and subsequent reports due the last day of the months of March, June, September and December until Ms. Stokes is notified, in writing, that the reporting requirement is ended. Ms. Stokes shall notify the Board within ten days, in writing, of: any change in address, telephone number, or e-mail address of Ms. Stokes; changes in the location of her practice; additional practice locations; change in employment, including termination, suspension, separation, or other interruption in practice (including the name and address of any new employer and the date of employment); criminal charges or convictions.

f. Ms. Stokes shall provide her current employer within 45 days of the entry of the Order, and each future employer immediately upon employment, with a copy of this Order in its entirety.

g. Ms. Stokes shall ensure that the supervisor or practice monitor shall provide quarterly reports to the Board regarding Ms. Stokes' clinical judgment, clinical performance, recordkeeping, documentation, medication administration, and overall performance, to include any drug screens. The reports shall be submitted on a quarterly basis to the Board, with the first report due no later than 60 days from the date this Order is entered, and subsequent reports due the last day of the months of March, June, September, and December until Ms. Stokes is notified that the reporting requirement is ended.

h. Ms. Stokes shall ensure that her therapist and/or counselor shall provide quarterly reports to the Board regarding her diagnosis, recommended course of therapy, progress in therapy, compliance with medication management, and a prognosis. Ms. Stokes shall direct the therapist and/or counselor to notify the Board if she withdraws from the treatment program before being officially

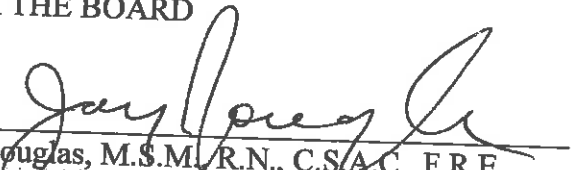
discharged by the therapist. The reports shall be submitted on a quarterly basis to the Board, with the first report due no later than 60 days from the date this Order is entered, and subsequent reports due the last day of the months of March, June, September, and December until Ms. Stokes is notified that the reporting requirement is ended.

- i. Ms. Stokes shall, within 45 days of the date of entry of this Order, return all copies of her current license, along with any required fee, to the Board office, and the Board shall issue her a license marked “Valid in Virginia Only; Probation with Terms.”
- j. Ms. Stokes shall sign all required medical releases and authorization forms within 60 days of the date of entry of this Order allowing for unrestricted communication between and among the Board and her practice supervisor or monitor, her employer and potential and intended employer(s), and her current and future treating healthcare providers.
- k. Ms. Stokes shall bear any costs associated with the terms of this Order.
- l. Ms. Stokes shall comply with all laws and regulations governing the practice of professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- m. Any violation of the foregoing terms and conditions of this Order or any statute or regulation governing the practice of professional nursing shall constitute grounds for further disciplinary action.
- n. Failure to comply with all terms and conditions of this Order within five years of the date of entry of the Order may be reason for revoking or suspending the license of Ms. Stokes, and an administrative proceeding shall be held to determine whether to impose such action.
- o. The Order shall remain in effect until the Board has notified Ms. Stokes in writing that she is released from probation and all terms and conditions.

p. The Executive Director of the Board is authorized to issue an Order acknowledging satisfactory completion of the foregoing conditions or to refer the matter to administrative proceeding for review of Ms. Stokes' compliance with the foregoing conditions.

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4023 and 54.1-2400.2, the signed original of this Order shall remain in the custody of the Department of Health Professions as a public record, and shall be made available for public inspection and copying upon request.

FOR THE BOARD


Jay Douglas, M.S.M., R.N., C.S.A.C., F.R.E.
Executive Director
Virginia Board of Nursing

ENTERED AND MAILED ON:

December 8th, 2017

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

As provided by Rule 2A:2 of the Supreme Court of Virginia, you have 30 days from the date you are served with this Order in which to appeal this decision by filing a Notice of Appeal with Jay P. Douglas, R.N., M.S., C.S.A.C., F.R.E., Executive Director, Board of Nursing, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233. The service date shall be defined as the date you actually received this decision or the date it was mailed to you, whichever occurred first. In the event this decision is served upon you by mail, three days are added to that period.

Certified True Copy

By 
Virginia Board Of Nursing