

**BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE: MEGAN COLES, C.N.A.**  
**Certificate Number: 1401-178300**  
**Case Number: 178380**

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**ORDER**

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**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 15, 2017, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Megan Coles, C.N.A., may have violated certain laws governing the practice of nurse aides in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Megan Coles, C.N.A., did not appear at this proceeding and was not represented by legal counsel.

**NOTICE**

By letter dated October 18, 2017, the Board sent a Notice of Formal Hearing ("Notice") to Ms. Coles notifying her that a formal administrative hearing would be held on November 15, 2017. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to the legal address of record on file with the Board. The Notice was also sent to 1732 Salem Commons Lane, Salem, Virginia, 24153, a secondary address. The Notice sent by certified mail to the address of record was returned to the Board office marked "unclaimed." The Notice sent by certified mail to the secondary address was delivered on October 20, 2017. The Notices sent by first class mail were not returned to the Board office. Accordingly, the panel Chair concluded that adequate notice was provided to Ms. Coles and the formal hearing proceeded in her absence.

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 February 18, 2016, the Board issued Certificate Number 1401-178300 to Megan Coles, C.N.A., to practice as a nurse aide in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Said certificate is scheduled to expire on February 28, 2018. At all times relevant hereto, said certificate was in full force and effect.
2. On January 6, 2017, Ms. Coles was hospitalized at Lewis Gale Medical Center, Salem, Virginia. She reported using marijuana, hashish, and THC on a daily basis for the past seven years, along with “pain pills.” She was discharged on January 9, 2017, and her discharge diagnoses included major depressive disorder, single episode, severe, without psychosis, cannabis abuse and opiate abuse.
3. On January 26, 2017, Ms. Coles was hospitalized at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital, subsequent to having suicidal thoughts. Upon admission, she tested positive for THC and PCP. She was discharged on January 31, 2017, with a diagnosis of major depressive disorder, recurrent, severe, without psychotic features.
4. On February 25, 2017, Ms. Coles was hospitalized at CRMH subsequent to a motor vehicle accident. She reported taking her Klonopin (clonazepam, C-IV) and trazodone (C-VI) together, and then getting into her car to drive. She also reported continued use of cannabis and oxycodone (C-II), for which she did not have a valid prescription.
5. On March 4, 6, and 20, 2017, Ms. Coles reported to the emergency department of CRMH with complaints of pain and received narcotic medication. Further, on March 20, 2017, she tested positive for cannabinoid.
6. On March 17, 2017, Ms. Coles’ primary care physician noted that Ms. Coles has chronic and occasionally intractable nausea related to her chronic cannabis use. It was also noted that she was not to be given any narcotics.

7. From February 23, 2017, until May 4, 2017, she received mental health treatment at the Center for Emotional Care, Salem, Virginia; however, she failed to disclose her chronic use of cannabis and opioids. On February 23, 2017, she reported that her marijuana use was infrequent and that she had no desire to quit. She also denied use of other substances.

8. On June 30, 2017, Ms. Coles was convicted of reckless driving in connection with the incident that occurred on February 25, 2017, and was ordered to complete the Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program (“VASAP”) by the General District Court of Salem, Virginia.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. Findings of Fact Nos. 2-8 constitute violations 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. Coles’ health records or health services.

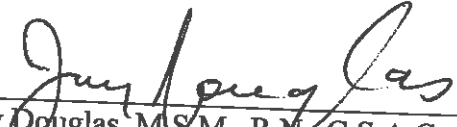
### **ORDER**

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

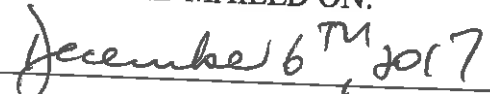
1. The certificate issued to Megan Coles, C.N.A., to practice as a nurse aide in the Commonwealth of Virginia is INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED.
2. The certificate of Ms. Coles will be recorded as SUSPENDED.
3. Should Ms. Coles, seek reinstatement of her certificate, an administrative proceeding shall be convened to consider such application. At such time, the burden shall be on Ms. Coles to demonstrate that she is safe and competent to return to practice as a nurse aide. Ms. Coles shall be responsible for any fees that may be required for the reinstatement and/or renewal of the certificate prior to issuance of the certificate to resume practice.

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

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

ENTERED AND MAILED ON:

  
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December 6<sup>th</sup>, 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 Douglas, M.S.M, R.N.; 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   
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Virginia Board Of Nursing