

**BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE: JENNY KWON INJA CHOI, R.N. REINSTATEMENT APPLICATION**  
**License Number: 0001-176284**  
**Case Number: 180097**

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**ORDER**

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**JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4019 and 54.1-2400(10), a Special Conference Committee of the Virginia Board of Nursing (“Board”) held an informal conference on October 3, 2017, in Henrico County, Virginia, to receive and act upon Jenny Choi’s application for reinstatement of her license to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia and to inquire into evidence that grounds may exist to deny said application.

Jenny Kwon Inja Choi appeared at this proceeding and was not represented by legal counsel.

**NOTICE**

By letter dated September 12, 2017, the Board sent a Notice of Informal Conference (“Notice”) to Ms. Choi notifying her that an informal conference would be held on October 3, 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 Committee adopts the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and issues the Order contained herein.

**FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. Jenny Choi was issued License No. 0001-175284 to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia on August 17, 2001. Her license expired on March 31, 2015.
2. Ms. Choi was issued License No. 152820 to practice professional nursing in Maryland on June 8, 2001.

3. By Order of the Maryland Board of Nursing (“MBON”) entered April 11, 2011, Ms. Choi’s Maryland license was summarily suspended. The MBON’s Order was based upon findings that, in October 2007, Ms. Choi took narcotic medications home with her from her employer, who was identified as Facility A, did not return the medications when requested to do so, and signed out medications for one patient and administered them to another. Ms. Choi was also found to have been untruthful about her prior employment on an employment application in September of 2010. Finally, the MBON found that Ms. Choi’s psychological instability rendered her unfit for duty.

4. On June 28, 2011, the MBON accepted the voluntary surrender of Ms. Choi’s nursing license.

5. On March 24, 2017, the Board received Ms. Choi’s application for reinstatement of her professional nursing license.

6. Ms. Choi violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(7) in that on June 28, 2011, the Maryland Board of Nursing accepted Ms. Choi’s Letter of Surrender of her license to practice registered nursing in the State of Maryland.

7. Ms. Choi violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(6) in that she is unsafe to practice professional nursing due to mental and/or physical illness, as evidenced by the following:

a. A September 1, 2010, psychiatric evaluation of Ms. Choi ordered by the Maryland Board of Nursing resulted in diagnoses of post-traumatic stress disorder and generalized anxiety disorder. Further, the evaluation noted that she should not practice nursing in a clinical setting “until further treatment and review.”

b. A December 11, 2010, neurological-psychological evaluation of Ms. Choi ordered by the Maryland Board of Nursing resulted in diagnoses of borderline personality disorder and depressive disorder (with anxiety features) not otherwise specified. Further, the evaluation noted that Ms. Choi

“fail[ed] to possess the essential skills necessary for providing care in highly demanding environments” and that “nursing care for medically critical patients is not recommended.”

c. In June and July 2017, Ms. Choi failed to cooperate with a psychologist with whom she met in order to obtain that psychologist’s opinion “about whether her mental/psychological state was such that she should be ‘cleared’ to return to nursing.” Specifically, Ms. Choi was “unwilling to provide [her] with corroborating reporters, access to the investigator, [or] records regarding the psychiatric and psychological evaluations that were part of the recommendation that she surrender her license.”

8. At the informal conference Ms. Choi agreed with the Allegations as outlined in Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law Nos. 6 and 7(a) and 7(b).

9. With regard to the Allegation outlined in Finding of Fact and Conclusion of Law No. 7(c), Ms. Choi indicated that the psychologist was hostile toward her and that she had attempted to obtain the prior psychiatric evaluations from the Maryland Board, but was unable to do so.

10. Ms. Choi indicated that she is seeing an employment counselor with the Community Services Board (“CSB”) who has helped her, but that she has not seen a mental health provider.

11. Ms. Choi attended dialectical behavioral therapy at the Chantilly Mental Health Center from March to August of 2017.

12. Ms. Choi recently began attending peer support specialist training through the CSB.

13. Ms. Choi said that she takes trazadone for insomnia.

14. She has no history of substance abuse.

15. Ms. Choi blamed a lack of support and poor self-confidence for poor job performance in the past. Says she now has a good support system in place. She identified her weaknesses, has worked hard to address them, and now has better self confidence

16. Ms. Choi has significant volunteer experience.

17. On March 20, 2017 Ms. Choi completed a nurse refresher course at George Mason University.

18. Ms. Choi said that she does not want to work in a cardiac ICU like she had done in the past. She indicated that she now has a passion for psychiatric nursing.

19. Ms. Choi has demonstrated that she is safe and competent to resume professional nursing with monitoring.

### ORDER

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

1. The application of Jenny Kwon Inja Choi for reinstatement of her license to practice professional nursing is APPROVED contingent upon Ms. Choi's entry into the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP"). Thereafter, Ms. Choi shall comply with the terms and conditions of the HPMP for the period specified by the HPMP. Upon receipt of evidence of Ms. Choi's participation in and successful completion of the terms specified by the HPMP, the Board, at its discretion, may waive Ms. Choi's appearance before the Board and conduct an administrative review of this matter, at which time she may be issued an unrestricted license.

2. Upon receipt of evidence of Ms. Choi's participation in and successful completion of the terms specified by the HPMP, the Board, at its discretion, may waive Ms. Choi's appearance before the Board and conduct an administrative review of this matter, at which time she may be issued an unrestricted license.

3. This Order is applicable to Ms. Choi's multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice professional nursing. For the duration of this Order, Ms. Choi shall not work outside of the Commonwealth of Virginia pursuant to a multistate licensure privilege without the written permission

of the Virginia Board of Nursing and the Board of Nursing in the party state where she seeks to work. Any requests for out of state employment should be directed, in writing, to the Executive Director of the Board.

4. Ms. Choi shall comply with all laws and regulations governing the practice of professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

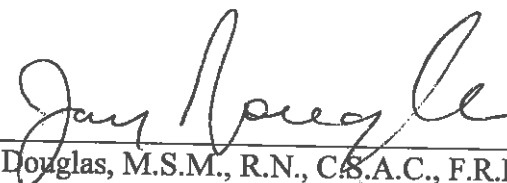
5. Any violation of the foregoing terms and conditions of this Order or any statute or regulation governing the practice of professional nursing shall constitute grounds for further disciplinary action.

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

Certified True Copy

By   
Virginia Board of Nursing

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

ENTERED AND MAILED:

November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL**

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400(10), Ms. Choi may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on December 20, 2017, notify Jay Douglas, MSM, RN, CSAC, FRE, Executive Director, Board of Nursing, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233, in writing that she desires a formal administrative hearing before the Board. Upon the filing with the Executive Director of a request for the hearing, this Order

shall be vacated. This Order shall become final on December 20, 2017, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.