

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: ANGELA LORRAINE RICHARDSON, L.P.N., R. N. APPLICANT
License Number: 0002-078069
Case Number: 178176 and 181402

ORDER

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 August 21, 2017, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Angela L. Richardson, L.P.N., may have violated certain laws and regulations governing the practice of nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia and inquire into evidence that grounds may exist to deny Ms. Richardson’s application for licensure by examination to practice professional nursing.

Angela Lorraine Richardson, L.P.N. appeared at this proceeding and was not represented by legal counsel.

NOTICE

By letter dated July 26, 2017, the Board sent a Notice of Informal Conference (“Notice”) to Ms. Richardson notifying her that an informal conference would be held on August 21, 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. Angela Lorraine Richardson, L.P.N., was issued License Number 0002-078069 to practice practical nursing on May 13, 2008, which is scheduled to expire on August 31, 2018. At all

times relevant to the findings contained herein, said license was current and active. Her primary state of residence is Virginia.

2. On March 24, 2017, Ms. Richardson submitted an application for licensure by examination to practice professional nursing.

3. Ms. Richardson violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(2), (5), and (8) and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(f) and (l) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing (currently found at 18 VAC 90-19-230(A)(2)(f) and (l) of the Regulations, effective February 24, 2017), in that during the course of her employment with Western State Hospital, Staunton, Virginia, in 2016, she entered into an inappropriate personal relationship with Patient A, who had a primary diagnosis of schizoaffective disorder, bipolar type. Specifically, Ms. Richardson discussed personal details of her life with the patient, provided him personal contact information and a photograph of herself, requested to spend time together outside of the hospital setting, and wrote him handwritten personal notes with instructions to destroy them or keep them secret. The patient also reported that Ms. Richardson expressed an interest in engaging in a physical relationship with him.

4. During the informal conference, Ms. Richardson denied that she sought to have a physical relationship with Patient A.

5. Ms. Richardson stated to the Committee that she made a mistake with regard to Patient A, and she is remorseful. Although she had taken a boundaries course provided by the facility on July 23, 2016, prior to this incident, Ms. Richardson was required to take a second boundaries course in December 2016. Following that course Ms. Richardson stated that she told Patient A that she could not send him anymore notes.

6. Ms. Richardson stated that she was given a Group III disciplinary action by Western State Hospital, which is one step above termination.

7. Ms. Richardson provided a letter from Comprehensive Health Systems, PLC, Fishersville, Virginia, where she receives treatment. Ms. Richardson was diagnosed with major depressive disorder and panic disorder. Her current counselor provided a letter that supports Ms. Richardson being allowed to sit for the NCLEX-RN examination.

8. Ms. Richardson otherwise meets the requirements of Virginia Code § 54.1-3017.

9. Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400.2(K), the Board considered whether to disclose or not disclose Ms. Richardson’s 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. Angela Lorraine Richardson, L.P.N., is REPRIMANDED.

2. Within 60 days from the date of entry of this Order, Ms. Richardson shall provide written proof satisfactory to the Board of successful completion of the following NCSBN courses: *Ethics of Nursing Practice; Professional Accountability & Legal Liability for Nurses; and Professional Boundaries in Nursing*. Continuing education obtained through compliance with this term shall not be used toward licensure renewal.

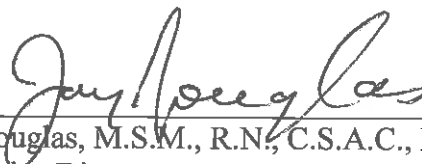
3. The application of Ms. Richardson for licensure to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia is APPROVED. Upon successful completion of the NCLEX-RN examination, Ms. Richardson shall be issued an unrestricted license to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth.

4. Ms. Richardson shall comply with all laws and regulations governing the practice of 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 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



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

ENTERED AND MAILED: August 31ST, 2017

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400(10), Ms. Richardson may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on October 3, 2017, notify 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, 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 October 3, 2017, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.