

**BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE: KARLA DENESE TRISTANI, L.P.N.**  
**License Number: 0002-087328**  
**Case Number: 178832**

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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 August 8, 2017, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Karla Denese Tristani, L.P.N., may have violated certain laws and regulations governing the practice of practical nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Karla Denese Tristani, L.P.N., appeared at this proceeding and was not represented by legal counsel.

**NOTICE**

By letter dated July 6, 2017, the Board sent a Notice of Informal Conference (“Notice”) to Ms. Tristani notifying her that an informal conference would be held on August 8, 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. Karla Denese Tristani, L.P.N., was issued License Number 0002-087328 to practice practical nursing on July 6, 2012, which is scheduled to expire on March 31, 2019. At all times relevant to the findings contained herein, said license was current and active. Her primary state of residence is Virginia.

2. Karla Denese Tristani, L.P.N., violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(5) and (8) in that during the course of her employment with PSA Healthcare, Norfolk, Virginia:

a. On January 31, 2017, while changing her two-year-old patient's diaper, she smacked the patient's hand, forced the patient's legs over her head, and pushed the patient's hand down onto the floor.

b. Between January 24 and January 31, 2017, there were several instances where Ms. Tristani failed to appropriately supervise the patient and was distracted on her personal cellphone.

3. The incidents were captured on video surveillance. Ms. Tristani's employment was suspended pending investigation and was subsequently terminated on March 3, 2017.

4. At the informal conference, Ms. Tristani recognized that her actions were inappropriate and stated that she did not have malicious intent and never meant to harm the patient. Ms. Tristani provided a letter from the Suffolk Department of Social Services which indicated that a review of the facts did not show a preponderance of evidence that abuse or neglect occurred and determined the report to be unfounded. Further, the patient was seen in the emergency room on February 1, 2017, and the documentation indicated that there was no bruising, range of motion issues or fractures.

5. Ms. Tristani stated that she has altered her practice and no longer takes her cellphone to work. She is currently employed at Riverside as a medication refill nurse and at Heart Song Care with a home health patient. Ms. Tristani also reported that she has not had any other employment terminations.

### ORDER

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

1. Karla Denese Tristani, L.P.N., is REPRIMANDED.

2. Within 60 days from the date of entry of this Order, Karla Denese Tristani, L.P.N., shall provide written proof satisfactory to the Board of successful completion of the following NCSBN courses: *Professional Accountability & Legal Liability for Nurses; Professional Boundaries in Nursing; and Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills*. Continuing education obtained through compliance with this term shall not be used toward licensure renewal.

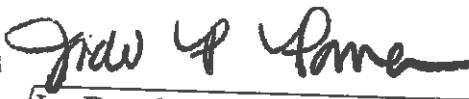
3. Karla Denese Tristani, L.P.N., shall bear any costs associated with the terms and conditions of this Order.

4. Karla Denese Tristani, L.P.N., shall comply with all laws and regulations governing the practice of practical 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 practical 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

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

ENTERED AND MAILED: August 18, 2017

**NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL**

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400(10), Ms. Tristani may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on September 20, 2017, notify Jay P. 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 September 20, 2017, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

Certified True Copy  
By   
Virginia Board of Nursing