

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: PEARL E. GRESHAM BLAKE, L.P.N.,
License Number: 0002-065469
Case Number: 175834

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 April 13, 2017, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Pearl E. Gresham Blake, L.P.N., may have violated certain laws and regulations governing the practice of practical nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Pearl E. Gresham Blake, L.P.N., appeared at this proceeding and was not represented by legal counsel.

NOTICE

By letter dated March 17, 2017, the Board sent a Notice of Informal Conference (“Notice”) to Ms. Blake notifying her that an informal conference would be held on April 12, 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. Pearl E. Gresham Blake, L.P.N., was issued License Number 0002-065469 to practice practical nursing on December 18, 2002, which is scheduled to expire on March 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. Pearl E. Gresham Blake, L.P.N., violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(2), (5), and (8) and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(f) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing (currently found at 18 VAC 90-19-230(A)(2)(f), effective February 24, 2017) in that during the course of her employment with Maxim Healthcare Services, Yorktown, Virginia, on July 4, 2016, while assigned to Client A, a minor:

- a. She treated the client for muscle strain by placing a hot washcloth that she had warmed in the microwave on the client's thigh, which resulted in first- and second-degree burns.
- b. She failed to properly treat the resulting burn when she placed baby wipes on the affected area.
- c. She failed to note the burn and her subsequent treatment in the client's record by simply noting in the nursing flow sheet that there was "some redness," and that the client was crying. She also failed to notify the client's physician of the burn.
- d. In an interview with an investigator with the Department of Health Professions, Client A's mother stated that when she asked Ms. Blake how the client acquired the burns, Ms. Blake stated that she did not know. At the informal conference, Ms. Blake denied telling Client A's mother that she did not know.

3. An investigation into the incident conducted by the King William County Department of Social Services found that the facts showed, by a preponderance of the evidence, that abuse or neglect occurred.

4. Ms. Blake stated at the informal conference that she was following the parent's instructions in placing the warm compress on Client A's muscle strain. She stated that she followed the following procedure in treating Client A's muscle strain: she placed a wet washcloth in the

microwave for 20 seconds, waved the warm washcloth in the air, and placed the washcloth on her wrist and face before applying the compress to Client A's thigh.

5. Ms. Blake stated that prior to applying the compress, she noted no redness on Client A's thigh. After Client A would not stop crying, Ms. Blake removed the compress and noticed some redness. She stated that she did not apply anything else to the area at that time.

6. Ms. Blake stated that she immediately called the family, who were five minutes away. Ms. Blake stated that she did not call an ambulance because the family was nearby. She stated that she administered Client A's usual dose of Tylenol to see if that would relieve his discomfort.

7. Ms. Blake stated that when Client A's family arrived, she then took note that some blisters had begun to form on the affected area. Shortly thereafter, EMS and the police arrived. She stated that as a result, she did not call the physician to report the burn. She further stated that she requested to accompany the family to the hospital, but the family said no.

8. Ms. Blake stated that as a result of this incident, she was arrested and charged with felony child neglect in the King William County, Virginia, Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. She stated that she pled guilty to and was convicted of a charge but cannot recall what she was convicted of.

9. Ms. Blake stated that as a result of her conviction, she received probation and is prohibited from caring for a minor for two years.

10. Ms. Blake stated that she was traumatized by the experience.

11. Ms. Blake stated that she is currently working as a massage therapist at La Source Spa, Kilmarnock, Virginia.

ORDER

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

1. Pearl E. Gresham Blake, L.P.N., is REPRIMANDED.
2. Pearl E. Gresham Blake, L.P.N., shall comply with all laws and regulations governing the practice of practical nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

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:

April 21ST, 2017

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400(10), Ms. Blake may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on May 24, 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 May 24, 2017, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

Certified True Copy

By 
Virginia Board of Nursing