

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: **RHONDA TITMUS ROWLAND, R.N.**
License Number: 0001-107511
Case Number: 173796

RATIFICATION AND ORDER

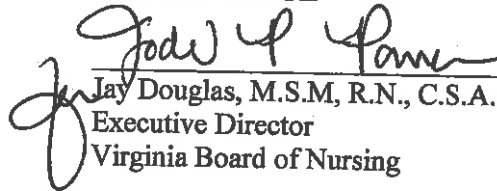
On March 22, 2017, a panel of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. Rhonda Titmus Rowland, R.N., was not present nor was she represented by legal counsel.

In consideration whereof, the Board of Nursing ACCEPTS the attached Recommended Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law of the Agency Subordinate and ADOPTS the Recommended Order in its entirety.

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 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.

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400(10), Ms. Rowland may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on May 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.

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 ON:

March 31, 2017

This Order shall become final on May 3, 2017, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

Certified True Copy

By 
Virginia Board Of Nursing

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: RHONDA TITMUS ROWLAND, R.N.
License Number: 0001-107511
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REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF AGENCY SUBORDINATE

Jurisdiction and Procedural History

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4019 and 54.1-2400(10), Louise Hershkowitz, C.R.N.A., M.S.H.A., serving as Agency Subordinate of the Virginia Board of Nursing (“Board”), held an informal conference on February 7, 2017 in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Rhonda Titmus Rowland, R.N., may have violated certain laws and regulations governing the practice of professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Ms. Rowland appeared at this proceeding and was not represented by legal counsel.

Upon consideration of the evidence, the Agency Subordinate makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and recommends that the Board adopt the following Order.

Notice

By letter dated January 6, 2017, the Board sent a Notice of Informal Conference (“Notice”) to Ms. Rowland notifying her that an informal conference would be held on February 7, 2017. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to the legal address of record on file with the Board. By letter dated February 7, 2017, the Board hand-delivered an Amended Notice to Ms. Rowland.

Recommended Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

1. Rhonda Titmus Rowland, R.N., was issued License Number 0001-107511 to practice professional nursing on August 17, 1987, which is scheduled to expire on October 31, 2017. At all

times relevant to the findings herein, said license was in full force and effect. Her primary state of residence is Virginia.

2. Ms. Rowland violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(2), (5) and (8) and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(e) and (f) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing (“Regulations”) (currently found at 18 VAC 90-19-230(A)(2)(e) and (f), effective February 24, 2017) in that during the course of her employment with American Critical Care Services (“ACCS”), North Chesterfield, Virginia:

a. On April 12 and 14, 2016, Ms. Rowland failed to remain with Patient A, a one-year-old pediatric patient with a history of seizures, until the end of the shift and left one and a half to two hours early; however, she documented on the nurses notes that she completed her entire shift. On two other occasions, Ms. Rowland left early, without notifying a family member.

b. On May 3, 2016, Ms. Rowland failed to remain with Patient B, who was on a mechanical ventilator with tracheostomy, until the end of the shift and left early. Ms. Rowland documented leaving at 11:00 p.m.; however, she was gone when ACCS staff arrived at 9:15p.m.

3. At the informal conference, Ms. Rowland admitted to either pre-documentation delayed documentation and/or inaccurate documentation. She failed to demonstrate an understanding of the significance of providing accurate documentation to the oncoming shift and having it available for other healthcare providers. Ms. Rowland’s employment with ACCS was terminated on May 6, 2016, after she admitted leaving early and did not think it was a problem.

4. Ms. Rowland violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(6) in that she is unable to safely practice professional nursing due to substance abuse, as evidenced by the following:

a. On or about September 6, 2016, during an interview with an investigator from the Department of Health Professions, Ms. Rowland acknowledged alcohol abuse. A drug screen conducted on or about September 6, 2016 at the request of the DHP Investigator, was positive for

cannabinoid and cocaine. Ms. Rowland denied any illicit drug use and claimed the interaction of over-the-counter medications caused the positive result.

b. During the course of her employment at Beth Sholom, Richmond, Virginia, on June 22, 2016, Ms. Rowland submitted to a for cause drug screen and the lab reported that the urine had been substituted. At the informal conference, Ms. Rowland admitted that she substituted her urine with purchased urine. Ms. Rowland also admitted to drinking heavily the night before she was requested to have the drug screen and the night before the actual drug screen. Her sixteen-day long employment was terminated on June 27, 2016.

c. On December 23, 2012, in the General District Court of Dinwiddie County, Virginia, Ms. Rowland was charged with driving while under the influence. The charge was reduced to reckless driving after she complied with court-ordered terms. Further, on March 20, 2014 and July 24, 2014, Ms. Rowland was convicted of public swearing/intoxication.

5. At the informal conference, Ms. Rowland acknowledged being an alcoholic, but denied that it impacted her nursing practice.

6. Ms. Rowland violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(2) and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(e) of the Regulations (currently found at 18 VAC 90-19-230(A)(2)(e), effective February 24, 2017) in that by her own admission:

a. She falsified the employment application with Beth Sholom dated May 11, 2016, in that she failed to disclose her employment with ACCS and reason for leaving. Further, Ms. Rowland failed to disclose her alcohol-related convictions.

b. She falsified the employment application with ACCS dated January 19, 2015, in that she falsely answered “no” to the question “have you now or have you ever in the past, been

involved in any form of drug or alcohol abuse,” when, in fact, she has a ten-year history of alcohol abuse.

7. At the informal conference, Ms. Rowland stated that her most recent employment was terminated from Lexington Court Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center, where she was employed from July 2016 to January 2017, because she failed to disclose her employment at Beth Sholom.

Recommended Order

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Agency Subordinate recommends that the Board issue an Order as follows:

1. Rhonda Titmus Rowland, R.N., is REPRIMANDED.
2. The license issued to Rhonda Titmus Rowland, R.N., to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia is INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED for a period of not less than two years from the date of entry of this Order.
3. The license of Rhonda Titmus Rowland, R.N., will be recorded as SUSPENDED.
4. This suspension applies to any multistate privilege to practice professional nursing.
5. Should Rhonda Titmus Rowland, R.N., seek reinstatement of her license, an administrative proceeding shall be convened to consider such application. At such time, the burden shall be on Ms. Rowland to demonstrate that she is safe and competent to return to the practice of professional nursing. Ms. Rowland shall be responsible for any fees that may be required for the reinstatement and/or renewal of the license prior to issuance of the license to resume practice.

Reviewed and approved on March 1, 2017
By Louise Hershkowitz, C.R.N.A., M.S.H.A.
Agency Subordinate

Certified True Copy

By 
Virginia Board Of Nursing