

**BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE:           RHONDA TITMUS ROWLAND, R.N.**  
**License Number:   0001-107511**  
**Expiration Date:   October 31, 2017**  
**Case Number:       173796**

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**AMENDED NOTICE OF INFORMAL CONFERENCE BEFORE AN  
AGENCY SUBORDINATE AND STATEMENT OF ALLEGATIONS**

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**You are hereby notified that an informal conference has been scheduled before an Agency Subordinate of the Board of Nursing (“Board”) regarding your license to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.**

<b>TYPE OF PROCEEDING:</b>	This is an informal conference before an Agency Subordinate of the Board.
<b>DATE AND TIME:</b>	February 7, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.
<b>PLACE:</b>	Virginia Department of Health Professions Perimeter Center - 9960 Mayland Drive 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor - Virginia Conference Center Henrico, Virginia 23233

**LEGAL AUTHORITY AND JURISDICTION:**

1. This informal conference is being held pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4019 and 54.1-2400(10). This proceeding will be convened as a public meeting pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3700.

2. After consideration of all information, the Agency Subordinate is authorized to take any of the following actions:

- If the Agency Subordinate finds that there is insufficient evidence to warrant further action or that the charges are without foundation, notify you by mail that your record has been cleared of any charge which might affect your right to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth;

- Recommend findings of fact, conclusions of law and a sanction, to include a reprimand, placing you on probation with terms, suspension or revocation of your license, or imposing a monetary penalty pursuant to § 54.1-2401 of the Code.

Further, the Agency Subordinate may refer this matter for a formal administrative proceeding pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-4020.

### **Board's Review of Agency Subordinate's Recommended Decision**

If you **appear in person or by counsel at the informal conference**, the recommendation of the Agency Subordinate will be presented to a quorum of the Board. The Board may accept or modify the recommendation, or reject the recommendation and refer the case to a formal hearing. If you do not agree with the decision of the Board, you have the right to a formal administrative hearing before the Board.

If you **fail to appear in person or by counsel at the informal conference**, the recommendation of the Agency Subordinate will be presented to a quorum of the Board. The Board may accept or modify the recommendation, or reject the recommendation and refer the case to a formal hearing. The Board's decision regarding the agency subordinate's recommendation is a final order that can only be appealed to circuit court as provided by Rule 2A:2 of the Supreme Court of Virginia.

### **ABSENCE OF RESPONDENT AND RESPONDENT'S COUNSEL:**

If you fail to appear at the informal conference, the Agency Subordinate may proceed to hear this matter in your absence and may take any of the actions outlined above.

### **RESPONDENT'S LEGAL RIGHTS:**

You have the right to the information on which the Agency Subordinate will rely in making a decision, to be represented by counsel at this proceeding, to subpoena witnesses and/or documents, and to present relevant evidence on your behalf.

### **INFORMAL CONFERENCE MATERIALS:**

Enclosed is a copy of the documents that will be considered by the Agency Subordinate when discussing any allegations with you and when deliberating on your case. **These documents are enclosed only with the notice sent by certified mail, which you may be required to claim at the post office. Please bring these documents with you to the informal conference.**

### **FILING DEADLINES:**

1. Deadline for filing materials: February 7, 2017. Submit five copies of all documents you want the Board to consider to Sylvia Tamayo-Suijk, Board of Nursing, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233. Exhibits may not be sent by facsimile or e-mail.
2. Deadline for filing motions, including requests for continuance or objections to materials, in writing, to Sylvia Tamayo-Suijk at the above address: February 7, 2017. NOTE: the failure to object to materials does not deprive you of the right to contest their contents at the proceeding.

**REQUEST FOR A CONTINUANCE**

Absent exigent circumstances, such as personal or family illness, a request for a continuance after **February 7, 2017**, will not be considered. If you obtain counsel, you should do so as soon as possible, as a motion for a continuance due to the unavailability of counsel will not be considered unless received by **February 7, 2017**.

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**STATEMENT OF ALLEGATIONS**

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The Board alleges that:

1. At all times relevant hereto, Rhonda Titmus Rowland, R.N., was licensed to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of 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”) in that during the course of her employment with American Critical Care Services (“ACCS”), North Chesterfield, Virginia:

a. On or about April 12 and 14, 2016, Ms. Rowland failed to remain with Patient A, a pediatric patient, 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 or about May 3, 2016, Ms. Rowland failed to remain with Patient B 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. 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, was positive for alcohol and cocaine.

b. During the course of her employment at Beth Sholom, Richmond, Virginia, on or about June 16, 2016, Ms. Rowland was observed reporting to her car during a severe thunderstorm. Upon her return, she was observed to be very loud, excitable and sweating profusely. On or about

June 22, 2016, Ms. Rowland submitted to a drug screen and the lab reported that the urine had been substituted. Ms. Rowland admitted to the DHP investigator that she substituted her urine.

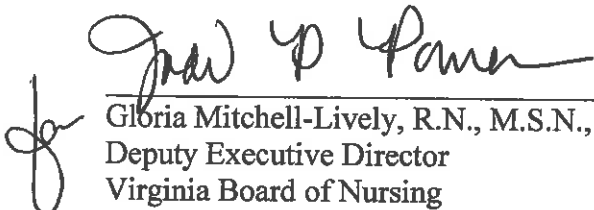
c. On or about March 28, 2013, in the General District Court of Dinwiddie County, Virginia, Ms. Rowland was convicted of driving while under the influence. Further, on or about March 20, 2014 and July 24, 2014, Ms. Rowland was convicted of public swearing/intoxication.

4. Ms. Rowland violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(2) and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(e) of the Regulations in that:

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.

See Confidential Attachment I for the names of the patients referenced above.

  
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Gloria Mitchell-Lively, R.N., M.S.N., M.B.A.  
Deputy Executive Director  
Virginia Board of Nursing

February 6, 2017  
Date