

**BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE: MELODY DARNELLA CLIFTON, C.N.A.**  
**Certificate Number: 1401-152060**  
**Expiration Date: May 31, 2017**  
**Case Number: 172301**

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**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 certificate to practice as a nurse aide 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>	<b>January 10, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.</b>
<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 as a nurse aide 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 certificate, 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: January 3, 2017. Submit five copies of all documents you want the Board to consider to Brenda Krohn, RN, MS, Deputy Executive Director, 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 Brenda Krohn, RN, MS, Deputy Executive Director, at the above address: January 3, 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 **January 3, 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 **January 3, 2017**.

## OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

If the Agency Subordinate finds that there is sufficient evidence to find you in violation of the allegation(s) stated below and Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(8), the Agency Subordinate shall recommend that the Board make a finding of abuse, neglect, and/or misappropriation of patient property, which will be entered in the Virginia Nurse Aide Registry pursuant to 42 CFR § 483.156(b)(2) and (c)(1)(iv)(D) of the Code of Federal Regulations. According to 42 CFR § 483.13(c)(1)(ii)(B), such a finding will prohibit your future employment as a certified nurse aide in any long term care facility that receives Medicare or Medicaid reimbursement.

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**STATEMENT OF ALLEGATIONS**

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The Board alleges that:

1. At all times relevant hereto, Melody Darnella Clifton, C.N.A., was certified to practice as a nurse aide in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
2. During the course of her employment with St. Francis Nursing Center, Newport News, Virginia, Ms. Clifton violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(2), (5) and (8) and 18 VAC 90-25-100(2)(e) of the Regulations Governing Certified Nurse Aides (“Regulations”) in that:
  - a. On or about February 12, 2016, Ms. Clifton provided ADL care to Resident A by herself instead of with another staff member, as required.
  - b. On or about February 14, 2016, Ms. Clifton was assigned to work from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Ms. Clifton abandoned her assignment in that she clocked out at 1:43 p.m., left the building and did not return; however, she failed to notify anyone that she would not be returning.
3. Ms. Clifton violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(6) in that on or about April 19, 2010, in the Daleville, Alabama, Municipal Court, she was convicted of driving while under the influence of alcohol.
4. Ms. Clifton violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(1) and 18 VAC 90-25-100(1)(b) of the Regulations in that although Ms. Clifton had the above-referenced conviction, she falsely answered “no” to the question regarding convictions on her application for nurse aide certification by endorsement dated March 14, 2012.
5. Ms. Clifton violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(2) and 18 VAC 90-25-100(2)(d) of the Regulations in that although Ms. Clifton had the above-referenced conviction, she falsely answered “no” to the question regarding convictions on her application for employment with St. Francis Nursing Center dated October 21, 2015.

See Confidential Attachment I for the name of the resident referenced above.



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Brenda Krohn, R.N., M.S.  
Deputy Executive Director  
Virginia Board of Nursing

Dec 7, 2016  
Date