

**BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE: SUZANNE LYNN GRIFFIN, R.N.**  
**LicenseNumber: 0001-153051**  
**Case Number: 179855**

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**ORDER**

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**JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4020, 2.2-4024(F), and 54.1-2400(11), a panel of the Virginia Board of Nursing (“Board”) held a formal administrative hearing on July 20, 2017, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Suzanne Griffin, R.N., may have violated certain laws and regulations governing the practice of nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Ms. Griffin did not appear at this proceeding and was not represented by legal counsel.

**NOTICE**

By letter dated June 28, 2017, the Board sent a Notice of Formal Hearing (“Notice”) to Ms. Griffin notifying her that a formal administrative hearing would be held on July 20, 2017. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to the legal address of record on file with the Board. The Notice sent by certified mail was not retrieved from the Post Office. A notice was left by the postal service on June 29, 2017, notifying Ms. Griffin that she had certified mail available for pick-up. The Notice sent by first class mail was not returned to the Board office. Accordingly, the panel Chair concluded that adequate notice was provided to Ms. Griffin and the formal hearing proceeded in her absence.

Upon consideration of the evidence, the Board adopts the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and issues the Order contained herein.

## FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On April 30, 1997, the Board issued License Number 0001-153051 to Suzanne Lynn Griffin, R.N. to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Said license expired on March 29, 2017. At all times relevant hereto, said license was in full force and effect. Her primary state of residence is Virginia.
2. By Order of the Board entered October 6, 2015 (“Board’s Order”), Ms. Griffin’s license to practice professional nursing was suspended by the Board with the suspension stayed contingent upon her continued compliance with the HPMP. This action was the result of Ms. Griffin’s admission by temporary detention order to Chippenham Medical Center, Richmond, Virginia, on December 6, 2014, with a provisional diagnosis of psychosis, and of Ms. Griffin’s admission on December 12, 2014, to St. Mary’s Hospital, Richmond, Virginia, with a diagnosis of brief psychosis. On June 6, 2013, Ms. Griffin was convicted of public intoxication in the Henrico, Virginia, General District Court. By letter dated March 29, 2017, the Board rescinded the stay of suspension due to Ms. Griffin’s failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the October 6, 2015, Board Order.
3. Term No. 5(a) of the Board’s Order entered October 6, 2015 required Ms. Griffin to continue to comply with all terms and conditions of the Health Practitioners’ Monitoring Program (“HPMP”). On March 29, 2017, Ms. Griffin was dismissed from the HPMP due to her noncompliance with her Recovery Monitoring Contract. Specifically, she failed to enter and complete treatment as recommended, to comply with the toxicology screening program, and to remain in contact with her case manager.
4. Ms. Griffin has a current diagnosis of bipolar disorder and ADHD. On April 14, 2017, her treating psychiatrist opined that Ms. Griffin has alcohol issues and would benefit from continued participation in the HPMP.

5. Ms. Griffin did not respond to repeated contact attempts by the investigator for the Department of Health Professions, including mail, electronic mail and telephone.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Finding of Fact No. 3 constitutes a violation of Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(6) and Term Number 5(a) of the Board's Order.
2. Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400.2(K), the Board considered whether to disclose or not disclose Ms. Griffin's health records or health services.

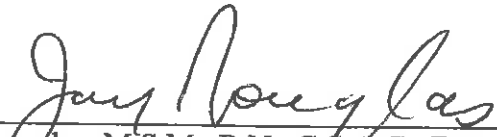
### **ORDER**

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

1. Suzanne Lynn Griffin, R.N., is REPRIMANDED.
2. The license issued to Ms. Griffin to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia is CONTINUED on INDEFINITE SUSPENSION.
3. The license of Ms. Griffin will be recorded as SUSPENDED.
4. This suspension applies to any multistate privilege to practice professional nursing.
5. Should Ms. Griffin seek reinstatement of her license, an administrative proceeding shall be convened to consider such application. At such time, the burden shall be on Ms. Griffin to demonstrate that she is safe and competent to return to the practice of nursing. Ms. Griffin 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.

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 ON:

August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL**

As provided by Rule 2A:2 of the Supreme Court of Virginia, you have 30 days from the date you are served with this Order in which to appeal this decision by filing a Notice of Appeal with 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. The service date shall be defined as the date you actually received this decision or the date it was mailed to you, whichever occurred first. In the event this decision is served upon you by mail, three days are added to that period.

Certified True Copy

By   
Virginia Board Of Nursing