

**VIRGINIA:**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE: PAULA JOHNSON, L.P.N.  
License No.: 0002-085634**

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Pursuant to §§ 2.2-4020, 2.2-4024(F), and 54.1-2400(11) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code"), Paula Johnson, L.P.N., who holds License No. 0002-085634 to practice practical nursing in Virginia, which expires on July 31, 2015, is hereby given notice that a formal administrative hearing will be held in the presence of a panel of the Board of Nursing. The hearing will be held on March 26, 2015, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Department of Health Professions, Board of Nursing, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 201, Henrico, Virginia 23233, at which time Ms. Johnson will be afforded the opportunity to be heard in person or by counsel.

At the hearing, Ms. Johnson has the following rights, among others: the right to representation by counsel; the right to have witnesses subpoenaed and to present witnesses on her behalf; the right to present documentary evidence; and the right to cross-examine adverse witnesses. If Ms. Johnson desires any witnesses to appear on her behalf, she must notify the Director of Administrative Proceedings, Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233, in accordance with the Instructions for Requesting Subpoenas.

The purpose of the hearing is to inquire into evidence that Ms. Johnson may have violated certain laws and regulations governing nursing practice in Virginia, as more fully set forth in the Statement of Particulars below.

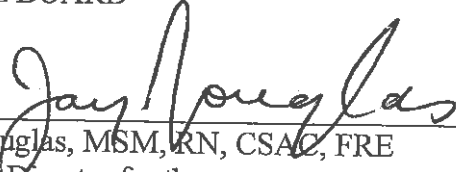
STATEMENT OF PARTICULARS

The Board alleges that:

1. Paula Johnson, L.P.N., may have violated § 54.1-3007(2), (5) and (8) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(c) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing in that on or between May 13, 2014, and June 10, 2014, during the course of her employment with Pheasant Ridge Nursing, Roanoke, Virginia, Ms. Johnson removed two vials each of injectable diazepam (Valium C-VI), morphine (C-II) and Demerol (meperidine, C-II) for her own personal and unauthorized use.
2. Ms. Johnson may have violated § 54.1-3007(5) and (6) of the Code in that she may be unable to safely practice practical nursing due to substance abuse and chronic pain as evidenced by the following:
  - a. On or about May 24, 2013, Ms. Johnson was diagnosed with opiate addiction by her physician at the Doctor's Office, Roanoke, Virginia, and prescribed Subutex (C-III) for the opiate addiction and chronic pain.
  - b. On or about May 2, 2014, following an appointment with Southwest Medical Center, when her request for narcotics was denied, Ms. Johnson became verbally abusive and threatening to the center's staff. A urine drug screen taken at the center on or about May 1, 2014, had been positive for hydrocodone 350 ng/ml (C- II), hydromorphone 143 ng/ml (C-II), morphine 72 ng/ml, oxycodone 1816 ng/ml (C-II), oxymorphone 1203 ng/ml (C-II), noroxycodone 2095 ng/ml and norhydrocodone 726 ng/ml, all registering significantly above the testing cutoff range of 50 ng/ml.
  - c. On or about June 10, 2014, following the discovery of the missing syringes at Pheasant Ridge, a for-cause urine drug screen was administered to Ms. Johnson which was positive for amphetamines, oxycodone, morphine, and oxymorphone.
  - d. On or about June 13, 2014, during her initial visit at the Center for Emotional Care, Ms. Johnson admitted using stimulants, opiates and benzodiazepines. Further, she was diagnosed with major

depression and anxiety. A urine drug screen collected during that visit was positive for amphetamines, benzodiazepines, and opiates.

FOR THE BOARD



Jay P. Douglas, MSM, RN, CSAC, FRE  
Executive Director for the  
Board of Nursing

ENTERED: March 11, 2015