

**BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE:           JOAN S. BIRCH, L.P.N.**  
**License Number:   0002-078845**  
**Expiration Date:   May 31, 2016**  
**Case Number:       173941**

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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 license to practice as a licensed practical nurse 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>October 18, 2016 at 2:00 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 licensed practical nurse 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 exhibits: October 11, 2016.** Submit five copies of all documents you want the Board to consider to Gloria Lively-Mitchell, R.N., M.S.N., M.B.A., 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 exhibits, in writing, to Gloria Lively-Mitchell, R.N., M.S.N., M.B.A., Deputy Executive Director, at the above address: October 11, 2016.** NOTE: the failure to object to exhibits 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 **October 11, 2016**, 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 **October 11, 2016**.

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**STATEMENT OF ALLEGATIONS**

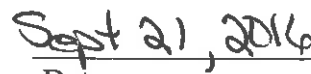
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The Board alleges that:

1. At all times relevant hereto, Joan S. Birch, L.P.N., was licensed to practice as a licensed practical nurse in the Commonwealth of Virginia or was eligible to renew her license.
2. Ms. Birch violated Term No. 1 of the Board's February 26, 2016, Order, which required her to provide evidence of completion of the NCSBN course *Professional Accountability and Legal Liability for Nurses* within 60 days of the entry of the Order, in that she failed provide evidence of completing the required course.
3. Ms. Birch violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(6) in that she unsafe to practice practical nursing due to mental and/or physical illness due to complications from having suffered a stroke in October 2015.

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400.2(K), the Board considered whether to disclose or not disclose Ms. Birch's health records or health services.

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

  
Date