

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: DEBORAH LYNN GRIFFITH, R.N.
License Number: 0001-197145
Expiration Date: January 31, 2018
Case Numbers: 139233, 174896

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

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.

TYPE OF PROCEEDING:	This is an informal conference before an Agency Subordinate of the Board.
DATE AND TIME:	December 1, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.
PLACE:	Virginia Department of Health Professions Perimeter Center - 9960 Mayland Drive 2 nd 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: November 23, 2016. 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: November 23, 2016. 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 **November 23, 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 **November 23, 2016**.

STATEMENT OF ALLEGATIONS

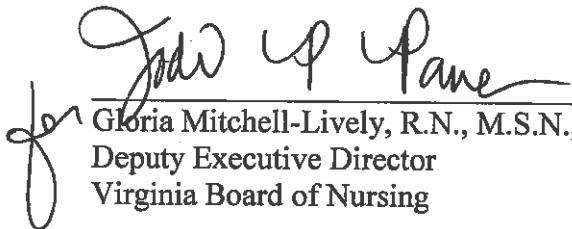
The Board alleges that:

1. At all times relevant hereto, Deborah Lynn Griffith, R.N., was licensed to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
2. During the course of her employment with Hospice Partners of America, d/b/a Hospice of Virginia:
 - a. Ms. Griffith violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(2), (5), and (8) and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(f) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing (“Regulations”) in that while assigned to provide home health care during the period of about July 1-4, 2016:
 - i. Ms. Griffith failed to make scheduled and unscheduled visits and failed to answer or respond to calls, resulting in delay of care to approximately three patients, including scheduled wound care.
 - ii. Ms. Griffith failed to respond to a referral by an emergency room physician regarding a patient in his home needing pain control.
 - b. Ms. Griffith violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(2), (5), (6), and (8) and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(f) of the Regulations in that on or about July 2, 2016, she was observed to be slurring her speech and unsteady on her feet while providing wound care to a patient.
 - c. Ms. Griffith violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(5) in that on or about July 2, 2016, she brought her child to a home health care visit.
3. Ms. Griffith violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(6) in that she is unsafe to practice due to substance abuse and/or mental and/or physical illness, in that her physician stated in an interview with the investigator for the Department of Health Professions that Ms. Griffith is not safe to practice due to the amount of prescription medication she takes.

4. Ms. Griffith violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(4) in that on or about February 27, 2012, she was convicted in the General District Court of Chesterfield County, Virginia, of larceny, a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.

5. Ms. Griffith violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(2), (5), and (8) and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(e) in that during the course of her employment with Amedisys, she falsely documented making a home visit to a client on December 23, 2010, when that client was hospitalized from December 22, 2010, through January 3, 2011.

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



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

November 2, 2016
Date