

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

**IN RE: TARA COLLINS, L.P.N.
LICENSE NO.: 0002-047435**

ORDER

In accordance with §§ 2.2-4019, 2.2-4021 and 54.1-2400(10) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code"), an informal conference was conducted on behalf of the Board of Nursing ("Board") on August 18, 2011, in Henrico County, Virginia. Tara Collins, L.P.N., was present and was not represented by legal counsel. Jane Elliott, serving as Agency Subordinate for the Board, submitted a Recommended Decision for consideration.

On November 16, 2011, a quorum of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. Ms. Collins was not present nor was she represented by legal counsel.

Based upon its review of the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate, the Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and issues the following Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Tara Collins, L.P.N., was issued License No. 0002-047435 to practice practical nursing in Virginia on May 24, 1993. The license is scheduled to expire on January 31, 2012. Ms. Collins' primary state of residence is Virginia.

2. By letter dated July 14, 2011, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Collins notifying her that an informal conference would be held on August 18, 2011. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 813 Bellingham Drive, Chesapeake, Virginia, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing.

3. On October 27, 2010, during the course of her employment with St. Mary's Home for Disabled Children, Norfolk, Virginia, Ms. Collins, without a physician's order, gave one tablet of Clonazepam (Schedule IV) from her personal prescription to a co-worker who was experiencing chest pains, shortness of breath, and stress. Ms. Collins stated she did this because she stated that she had the same stress-related symptoms.

4. Ms. Collins was hospitalized in a Veterans Affairs Hospital psychiatric facility in March 2011 following a suicide attempt on the one-year anniversary of her suffering a severe trauma while serving in Iraq. She was subsequently admitted to the Veterans Affairs Hospital 60-day domiciliary alcohol abuse program in April 2011.

5. Ms. Collins began drinking in July 2010 to deal with post-traumatic stress disorder in connection with her military deployment to Iraq. Ms. Collins stated that her date of sobriety was March 11, 2011.

6. Ms. Collins currently sees a psychiatrist once every three months for medication management, and she sees a psychologist every two to four weeks for therapy. She is currently taking Abilify, Seroquel and Effexor. She currently attends either aftercare or Alcoholics Anonymous once a week. Ms. Collins identified her support system as her boyfriend and her mother, who lives 45 minutes away. She stated she is currently working toward a bachelor's degree in nursing through Indiana State University's online program. She stated that she understand her use-of-alcohol triggers, how to avoid them, and what to do if encountered with alcohol. She had not contacted the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program as of the date of the informal conference.

7. Investigative information revealed that Ms. Collins has not displayed any signs of impairment at work, and she remains employed with St. Mary's Home for Disabled Children.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Finding of Fact No. 3 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(2) and (5) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(a) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing.

2. Finding of Fact Nos. 4 and 5 constitute a violation of § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code.

ORDER

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. The Board shall TAKE NO ACTION contingent on the following conditions:

a. Ms. Collins' shall enter into the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program within 45 days of the date of the entry of this Order.

b. Thereafter, Ms. Collins shall comply with all terms and conditions of the HPMP for the period specified by the HPMP.

2. Any violation of the terms and conditions stated in this Order shall be reason for revoking the license of Ms. Collins, and an administrative proceeding shall be held to decide whether her license should be revoked. Ms. shall be noticed to appear before the Board at such time as the Board is notified that:

a. Ms. Collins has failed to make application to the HPMP;

b. Ms. Collins is not in compliance with the terms and conditions of the HPMP, or has been terminated from participation in the HPMP;

c. There is a pending investigation or unresolved allegation against Ms. Collins involving a violation of law or regulation or any term or condition of this Order; or

d. Ms. Collins has successfully completed the above-referenced period of participation in the HPMP. However, upon receipt of Ms. Collins's participation in and compliance with the HPMP, the Board, at its discretion, may waive Ms. Collins' appearance before the Board and conduct an administrative review of this matter.

3. This Order is applicable to Ms. Collins' multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice practical nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia. For the duration of this Order, Ms. Collins shall not work outside of the Commonwealth of Virginia pursuant to a multistate licensure privilege without the written permission of the Virginia Board of Nursing and the Board of Nursing in the party state where Ms. Collins wishes to work. Any requests for out of state employment should be directed, in writing, to the Executive Director of the Board.

4. Ms. Collins is hereby REPRIMANDED.

5. Ms. Collins shall maintain a course of conduct in her capacity as a practical nurse commensurate with the requirements of § 54.1-3000 *et seq.* of the Code and the Board of Nursing Regulations.

This Order is subject to appeal to the Board. If Ms. Collins desires a formal administrative hearing before the Board pursuant to §§ 2.2-4020 and 2.2-4021 of the Code, she must notify Jay P. Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C., Executive Director, Board of Nursing, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Richmond, Virginia 23233, in writing, within thirty-three (33) days from the date of service of this Order. Upon the filing of a request for the hearing with the Executive Director, this Order shall be vacated.

Pursuant to § 54.1-2400.2 of the Code, 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

Gloria Mitchell
for Jay P. Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C.
Executive Director
Virginia Board of Nursing

Entered: *November 30th*, 2011

Certified True Copy

By *Jamara Farmer*
Virginia Board of Nursing