

**VIRGINIA:**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE:       WANDA STROTHER, R.N.**  
**License No.: 0001-109474**

**ORDER**

Pursuant to §§ 2.2-4019, 2.2-4021, and 54.1-2400(10) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended (“Code”), a Special Conference Committee (“Committee”) of the Virginia Board of Nursing (“Board”) met on October 14, 2015, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Wanda Strother, R.N., may have violated certain laws and regulations governing nursing practice in Virginia. Ms. Strother was present and was not represented by counsel.

Upon consideration of the evidence, the Committee adopts the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1.       Wanda Strother, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-109474 to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia on March 24, 1988. Said license is set to expire on July 31, 2016. Ms. Strother’s primary state of residence is Virginia.

2.       By letter dated September 15, 2015, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference (“Notice”) to Ms. Strother notifying her that an informal conference would be held on October 14, 2015. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 11 Montgomery Avenue, Staunton, Virginia, 24401, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing.

3.       On October 27, 2014, Ms. Strother was admitted to John Randolph Medical Center, Hopewell, Virginia, under a temporary detention order, following an emergency custody order and medical clearance at Augusta Health Emergency Room, Fishersville, Virginia. Ms. Strother was taken to Augusta Health by the police because she had called them stating that she was suicidal and that she had a knife and

intended to harm herself. In addition, Ms. Strother stated that she had tried to drown herself the day before in the bathtub. Ms. Strother reported that she drank two bottles of wine daily and that she had ingested wine and cough syrup. At her admission, Ms. Strother was combative, she had a blood alcohol level of 0.255 mg/dl, and a drug screen was positive for opiates. At the informal conference, Ms. Strother stated that she was prescribed a hydrocodone cough syrup and that is why her drug screen was positive for opiates.

4. On December 15, 2014, Ms. Strother was admitted to Crossroads at Augusta Health, under an emergency custody order. At her admission, Ms. Strother grabbed a nurse and tried to choke her. Ms. Strother reported that she drank two bottles of wine daily and that she had multiple personalities and she made suicidal statements while in the emergency room. Ms. Strother was admitted for alcohol intoxication and major depressive disorder and her blood alcohol level at admission was 0.237 mg/dl.

5. At the informal conference, Ms. Strother stated that she had received treatment at a detox facility in 2006 while she was also participating in the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP" *formerly the Health Practitioners Intervention Program.*) She entered into both the detox facility and the HPMP voluntarily and she acknowledged that she considers herself to be an alcoholic. Ms. Strother indicated that her date of sobriety was February 19, 2015.

6. Ms. Strother stated that she is not currently receiving any treatment for mental health or substance abuse, she does not attend AA, and she does not have a sponsor. Ms. Strother stated that she is willing to enter into the HPMP and that she has already contacted the program to begin the process.

7. During the course of her employment with Liberty Point Residential Treatment Center, Staunton, Virginia, Ms. Strother gave her resignation on two occasions. On one occasion, in November, 2014, she resigned and reported that she was dying, but later explained that her medical record had been confused with another person. In January 2015, Ms. Strother called and verbally resigned from her position

and stated that she could not do the job anymore. However, the next day Ms. Strother called and asked to be taken off the schedule; when she was asked about her resignation, she did not remember the conversation.

8. At the informal conference, Ms. Staunton stated that she never asked to resign but that she did request that she be taken off of the schedule due to alcohol and other health-related problems. Ms. Strother is still employed at Liberty Point Residential Treatment Center.

9. On May 28, 2008, in the Staunton, Virginia, General District Court, Ms. Strother was convicted of one count of misdemeanor filing a false report with a law enforcement officer, a crime of moral turpitude.

10. On April 7, 2015, Ms. Strother told a Virginia Department of Health Professions investigator that she did not have any criminal history. However, Ms. Strother was convicted of one count of misdemeanor filing a false report with law enforcement on May 28, 2008, in the Staunton General District Court. In addition, Ms. Strother failed to report to the investigator that she currently had a charge of assault and battery on emergency health care personnel pending in the Augusta County General District Court. At the informal conference, Ms. Strother stated that she told the investigator that she did not have a criminal history because she thought the investigator was referring to felony convictions.

11. The disposition of Ms. Strother's charge of misdemeanor assault and battery on emergency health care personnel has been deferred until February 25, 2016.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. Finding of Fact Nos. 3, 4 and 7 constitute a violation of §54.1-3007(6) of the Code.
2. Finding of Fact No. 9 constitutes a violation of §54.1-3007(4) of the Code.
3. Finding of Fact No. 10 constitutes a violation of §54.1-3007(2) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(n) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing.

4. Based on the above Findings of Fact, the Committee concludes that Ms. Strother is a candidate for the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP").

**ORDER**

WHEREFORE, on the basis of the foregoing, the Virginia Board of Nursing, effective upon entry of this Order, and in lieu of further proceedings, hereby ORDERS as follows:

1. Ms. Strother is hereby REPRIMANDED.

2. The Committee shall TAKE NO ACTION at this time, contingent upon Ms. Strother's compliance with the following terms and conditions:

a. Ms. Strother shall enter into the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP"), pursuant to § 54.1-2515 *et seq.* of the Code and 18 VAC 76-10-10 *et seq.* of the Regulations Governing the HPMP, and shall have proof of entry into a Contract with the HPMP provided to the Board within 30 days of the date this Order is entered.

b. Thereafter, Ms. Strother shall comply with all terms and conditions of the Contract with the HPMP for the period specified in the Contract.

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

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

b. Ms. Strother 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. Strother involving a violation of law or regulation or any term or condition of this Order; or

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

4. This Order is applicable to Ms. Strother's multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice professional nursing. For the duration of this Order, Ms. Strother 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 she wishes to work. Any requests for out of state employment should be directed, in writing, to the Executive Director of the Board.

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

Pursuant to §§ 2.2-4023 and 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 public record and shall be made available for public inspection or copying upon request.

Pursuant to Section 54.1-2400(10) of the Code, Ms. Strother may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on December 13, 2015, notify Jay P. 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, in writing that she desires a formal administrative hearing before the Board. Upon the filing with the Executive Director of a request for the hearing, this Order shall be vacated.

FOR THE COMMITTEE:

*pr* *Aleria Mitchell-Lively*  
Jay P. Douglas, M.S.M., R.N., C.S.A.C., F.R.E.  
Executive Director, Virginia Board of Nursing

ENTERED: *November 10, 2015*

This Order shall become final on December 13, 2015, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

**Certified True Copy**

By *[Signature]*  
**Virginia Board of Nursing**