

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: DENISE HAYWOOD PATTERSON, R.N. REINSTATEMENT APPLICANT
License Number: 0001-152244
Suspension Date: April 27, 2016
Case Number: 174202

**NOTICE OF INFORMAL CONFERENCE
AND STATEMENT OF ALLEGATIONS**

You are hereby notified that an informal conference has been scheduled before the Board of Nursing ("Board") regarding your application for reinstatement of your license to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia following its suspension by the Board.

TYPE OF PROCEEDING:	This is an informal conference before a Special Conference Committee ("Committee") of the Board.
DATE AND TIME:	December 15, 2016 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. The burden rests on you, as the applicant, to demonstrate that you are prepared to resume the safe and competent practice of professional nursing.
3. In considering your application, the Committee will consider evidence that grounds may exist to deny your application for reinstatement of your license to practice professional nursing, as more fully set out in the enclosed Statement of Allegations.
4. At the conclusion of the proceeding, the Committee is authorized to take any of the following actions:
 - Approve your application and issue an unrestricted license to practice professional nursing.
 - Approve your application and issue a restricted license subject to terms and conditions.
 - Deny your application;

- Refer the matter to the Board for a formal administrative hearing.

ABSENCE OF RESPONDENT AND RESPONDENT'S COUNSEL:

If you fail to appear at the informal conference, the Committee 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 Committee will rely in making its 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 distributed to the members of the Committee and will be considered by the Committee 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: December 8, 2016. Submit 5 copies of all documents you want the Board to consider to Brenda Krohn, 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 Brenda Krohn at the above address: December 8, 2016. NOTE: Failure to object to the distribution prior to the proceeding will not affect your right to contest any information contained in these documents at the proceeding.

REQUEST FOR A CONTINUANCE

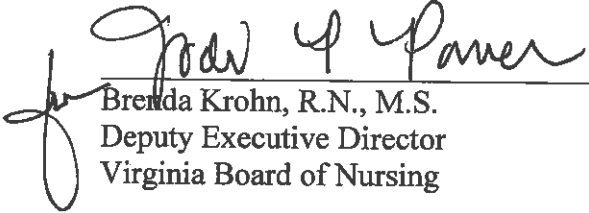
Absent exigent circumstances, such as personal or family illness, a request for a continuance after **December 8, 2016**, will not be considered. If you obtain counsel, you should do so as soon as possible, as a motion for a continuance due to the unavailability of counsel will not be considered unless received by **December 8, 2016**.

STATEMENT OF ALLEGATIONS

The Board alleges that grounds exist to refuse to reinstate the license of Denise Haywood Patterson, R.N. to practice professional nursing in that:

1. Ms. Patterson violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(5) and (6) in that during the course of her employment with Brandermill Woods, Midlothian, Virginia, between December 25 and 27, 2015, by her own admission, she failed to report for scheduled work shifts because she had been binge drinking.
2. Ms. Patterson violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(6) in that she is unsafe to practice professional nursing due to substance abuse and/or chemical dependency, as evidenced by the following:
 - a. Between or about August 14 and 19, 2015, at Bon Secours St. Francis Medical Center, Midlothian, Virginia (“St. Francis Medical Center”), Ms. Patterson received inpatient treatment for diagnoses including alcoholic cirrhosis, chronic alcohol abuse, and alcoholism.
 - b. On or about December 26, 2015, at St. Francis Medical Center, Ms. Patterson received treatment for alcohol intoxication and withdrawal.
 - c. On or about February 9, 2016, at Bon Secours, St. Mary’s Hospital, Richmond, Virginia, Ms. Patterson received emergency treatment for alcohol abuse and alcohol detoxification.
 - d. Between or about February 10 and April 5, 2016, at the Farley Center at Williamsburg Place, Williamsburg, Virginia, Ms. Patterson received inpatient treatment for alcohol detoxification, followed by intensive outpatient treatment between or about April 6 and May 17, 2016.
 - e. On or about March 12, 2016, Ms. Patterson signed a Participation Contract with the Health Practitioners’ Monitoring Program (“HPMP”) in which she acknowledged that her ability to practice nursing may be impaired by her alcohol abuse.

f. On or about September 27, 2016, Ms. Patterson attended group therapy session smelling of alcohol and submitted a breathalyzer test with a BAC of 0.082. On or about September 30, 2016, Ms. Patterson told her HPMP case manager that between September 23 and 26, 2016, she had consumed 1.5 liters of wine a day.



Brenda Krohn, R.N., M.S.
Deputy Executive Director
Virginia Board of Nursing

November 18, 2016
Date