

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: LINDA G. SPROUSE, L.P.N.
License Number: 0002-022310
Case Number: 170560

ORDER

JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4019 and 54.1-2400(10), a Special Conference Committee of the Virginia Board of Nursing ("Board") held an informal conference on August 1, 2016, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Linda G. Sprouse, L.P.N. may have violated certain laws and regulations governing the practice of practical nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Linda G. Sprouse, L.P.N. did not appear at this proceeding and was not represented by legal counsel.

NOTICE

By letter dated July 7, 2016, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Sprouse notifying her that an informal conference would be held on August 1, 2016. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to the legal address of record on file with the Board of Nursing. According to the U.S. Postal Service website, delivery of the certified mail was attempted. As of July, 27, 2016, the certified mail had not been picked up from the post office. The first class mail was returned to the Board office on July 19, 2016 marked "Return to Sender." Accordingly, the Committee Chair concluded that adequate notice was provided to Ms. Sprouse and the informal conference proceeded in her absence.

Upon consideration of the evidence, the Committee adopts the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and issues the Order contained herein.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Linda G. Sprouse, L.P.N. was issued License Number 0002-022310 to practice practical nursing on May 26, 1976, which is scheduled to expire on January 31, 2017. At all times relevant to the findings contained herein, said license was in full force and effect. Her primary state of residence is Virginia.

2. Ms. Sprouse violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(2), (5), and (8) and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(a) and (f) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing (“Regulations”) in that during the course of her employment with University of Virginia Medical Center, Charlottesville, Virginia (“UVAMC”), she made multiple practice errors. Specifically:

a. On October 16, 2015, Ms. Sprouse failed to review an urgent telephone triage call from a high-risk, pregnant patient with a physician before giving the patient medical advice, which she was not authorized to do. After ending the call, Ms. Sprouse made a note to the patient’s physician in the patient’s electronic medical record (“EMR”). As the physician was out of the office, the patient’s medical note did not reach the physician until the next morning. Ms. Sprouse’s failure to review the patient information with the physician resulted in a delay of patient care.

b. On June 16, 2015, Ms. Sprouse failed to verify that a physician order existed prior to administering medication to a patient. In addition, she documented the administration of the medication in the patient’s EMR eight hours after it was given and incorrectly documented the time that the medication was given.

c. On January 8, 2015, Ms. Sprouse failed to immediately notify a physician upon receiving a call from a patient complaining of left-sided numbness. When the patient presented to UVAMC for her scheduled appointment approximately four hours later, she was diagnosed with a cerebrovascular accident.

3. Linda G. Sprouse, L.P.N. violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(2) and (5) and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(m) of the Regulations in that, during the course of her employment with UVAMC, on or about April 1, 2015, Ms. Sprouse disclosed a patient's confidential information by reading the patient's test results out loud in the waiting room in the presence of other patients and the public.

4. Linda G. Sprouse, L.P.N. violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(2) and (5) and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(e) of the Regulations in that on her November 2, 2015 application for employment with Lake Monticello Primary Care, she falsely answered "No" to the question "Have you ever been involuntarily terminated from an employer?" In fact, Ms. Sprouse's employment with UVAMC was terminated on October 26, 2015.

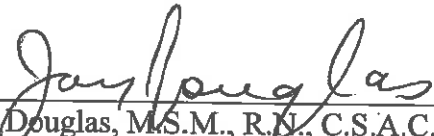
ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Virginia Board of Nursing hereby ORDERS as follows:

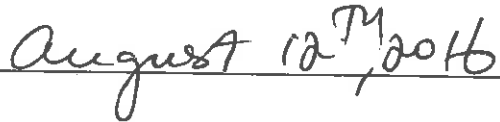
1. Linda G. Sprouse is REPRIMANDED.
2. Within 90 days from the date of entry of this Order, Linda G. Sprouse shall provide written proof satisfactory to the Board of successful completion of the following NCSBN courses:
 - a. Professional Accountability & Legal Liability for Nurses; and
 - b. Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills.
3. Linda G. Sprouse shall comply with all laws and regulations governing the practice of practical nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
4. Any violation of the foregoing terms and conditions of this Order or any statute or regulation governing the practice of practical nursing shall constitute grounds for further disciplinary action.

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4023 and 54.1-2400.2, 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


Jay Douglas, M.S.M., R.N., C.S.A.C., F.R.E.
Executive Director
Virginia Board of Nursing

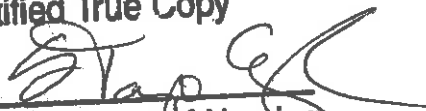
ENTERED AND MAILED:


August 12th, 2016

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400(10), Ms. Sprouse may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on September 14, 2016, notify Jay Douglas, 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. This Order shall become final on September 14, 2016, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

Certified True Copy

By 
Virginia Board of Nursing