

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: MYRA JO EASTER, R.N.

License Number: 0001-159451
Expiration Date: December 31, 2016
Case Number: 170839, 170423

**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 of Nursing.
DATE AND TIME:	August 2, 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.

COMMONWEALTH'S EXHIBIT:

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 exhibits: July 26, 2016. Submit five copies of all documents you want the Board to consider to Dawnyel Towles, 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 Dawnyel Towles at the above address: July 26, 2016. NOTE: the failure to object to exhibits does not deprive you of the right to contest their contents at the proceeding.

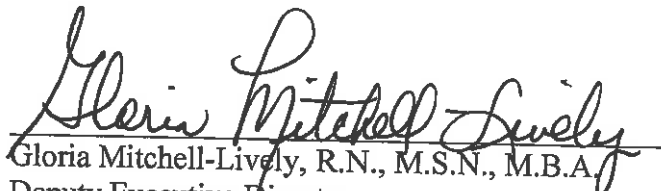
STATEMENT OF ALLEGATIONS

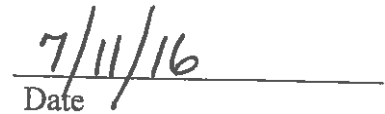
The Board of Nursing alleges that:

1. At all times relevant hereto, Myra Jo Easter, R.N. was licensed to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
2. Myra Jo Easter, R.N. violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(6) in that she is unsafe to practice professional nursing due to substance abuse and mental illness, as evidenced by the following:
 - a. From on or about November 9 to November 12, 2015, Ms. Easter was admitted voluntarily to VCU Health System, Richmond, Virginia for inpatient psychiatric treatment following a suicide attempt. Her discharge diagnosis was mood disorder not otherwise specified.
 - b. From on or about October 12 to October 16, 2015, Ms. Easter was admitted to Virginia Baptist Hospital, Lynchburg, Virginia, for inpatient psychiatric treatment following a suicide attempt. Her discharge diagnosis was mood disorder not otherwise specified.
 - c. From on or about June 17, 2015 to June 22, 2015, Ms. Easter was admitted voluntarily to University of Virginia Health System, Charlottesville, Virginia, for inpatient psychiatric treatment following a suicide attempt. Her discharge diagnosis was major depressive disorder, recurrent, severe, without psychosis.
 - d. In an interview with the investigator for the Department of Health Professions, Ms. Easter revealed that, in or about October of 2014, following a nervous breakdown, she was hospitalized at Southern Maryland Hospital for psychiatric treatment after using suicidal language in the emergency room.
 - e. Following her discharge from University of Virginia Health System in June of 2015, Ms. Easter has received outpatient psychiatric treatment through the Crossroads Community Services Board (“CSB”), Farmville, Virginia. On September 4, 2015, her psychological assessment

diagnosis was bipolar I mixed and etoh (alcohol) abuse. On October 30, 2015, her psychological assessment diagnosis was major depression recurrent and anxiety disorder not otherwise specified. On December 11, 2015, her psychological assessment diagnosis was bipolar disorder unspecified and anxiety disorder unspecified.

f. In an interview with the investigator for the Department of Health Professions, Ms. Easter's doctor with the CSB said that he believes she has not been compliant with prescribed medications and uses alcohol against his advice. He also said that she has shown no willingness to improve and cannot be relied upon to take care of others.


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


Date