

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: SHANNON J. WASHINGTON, L.P.N. REINSTATEMENT APPLICANT
License Number: 0002-063262
Case Number: 180897

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 October 3, 2017, in Henrico County, Virginia, to receive and act upon Shannon J. Washington’s application for reinstatement of her license to practice practical nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia and to inquire into evidence that grounds may exist to deny said application.

Shannon J. Washington appeared at this proceeding and was not represented by legal counsel.

NOTICE

By letter dated September 12, 2017, the Board sent a Notice of Informal Conference (“Notice”) to Ms. Washington notifying her that an informal conference would be held on October 3, 2017. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to the legal address of record on file with the Board.

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. Shannon Washington was issued License No. 0002-063262 to practice practical nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia on February 21, 2002.
2. By Consent Order of Board entered March 25, 2011, Ms. Washington was reprimanded based on a finding that during her employment with Glenburnie Rehabilitation and Nursing Center,

Richmond, Virginia, in September 2010, she falsely documented administering Rythmol (propafenone) as ordered to a patient when, in fact, the medication had not yet arrived from the pharmacy.

3. By Order of the Board entered August 9, 2016, Ms. Washington's license was indefinitely suspended. The Board's Order was based upon findings that, in July 2015, Ms. Washington had diverted oxycodone (C-II) and hydromorphone (C-II) from the Laurels of University Park, Richmond, Virginia.

4. On April 4, 2017, the Board received Ms. Washington's application for reinstatement of her practical nursing license.

5. Ms. Washington violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(6) in that she is unsafe to practice professional nursing due to substance abuse and/or mental and/or physical illness, as evidenced by her previous history of substance abuse.

6. Ms. Washington violated Virginia Code §§ 54.1-3007(3), 54.1-3008(A)(2), and 54.1-3011(C) in that she practiced practical nursing while her license was suspended between August 9, 2016, and January 13, 2017.

7. During the informal conference, Ms. Washington agreed with the allegations and admitted to abusing narcotics in the past.

8. She stated that she is currently attending Narcotics Anonymous and that her sobriety date is August 1, 2015.

9. Ms. Washington has not had a mental health or substance abuse evaluation.

10. She indicated that she has been promised a long-term care position with Beth Shalom once the situation with the Board of Nursing is resolved.

11. Ms. Washington has been working at a retirement home as a companion. She said this has been a very humbling experience. She said that she had begun to take her nursing license for granted.

12. Ms. Washington indicated that she has taken online courses in substance abuse.

13. Ms. Washington's sister appeared at the informal conference and spoke on her behalf. She indicated that Ms. Washington has a great deal of support from her family, who understands the issue at hand. She stated that Ms. Washington provides good care in the places where she works.

14. Ms. Washington has not yet demonstrated that she is safe and competent to resume the practice practical nursing.

ORDER


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

1. The application of Shannon J. Washington, for reinstatement of her license to practice practical nursing is APPROVED contingent upon verification that Ms. Washington has submitted to a mental health and chemical dependency evaluation by a mental health and chemical dependency specialist satisfactory to the Board. Ms. Washington shall provide proof to the Board that she has provided the specialist with a complete copy of this Order. Ms. Washington shall execute all releases necessary for unrestricted communication between the specialist and the Board, and she shall bear all costs associated with the evaluation. Ms. Washington shall have a written report of the evaluation, including a diagnosis, recommended course of therapy, and a prognosis sent to the Board. Upon receipt of the required report, the Board shall conduct a review of this matter and may either schedule an additional administrative proceeding to consider the evaluation and make a final disposition of the matter or issue an unrestricted license without a further proceeding.

2. Ms. Washington shall comply with all laws and regulations governing the practice of practical nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

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: November 22, 2017

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400(10), Ms. Washington may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on December 27, 2017, notify Jay Douglas, MSM, RN, CSAC, FRE, 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 December 27, 2017, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

Certified True Copy
By 
Virginia Board of Nursing