

**BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE: Heather Lynn Hodges, R.N.**  
**License Number: 0001-120189**  
**Expiration Date: June 30, 2017**  
**Case Number: 170979**

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**NOTICE OF INFORMAL CONFERENCE BEFORE AN AGENCY SUBORDINATE  
AND STATEMENT OF ALLEGATIONS**

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**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.**

<b>TYPE OF PROCEEDING:</b>	This is an informal conference before an Agency Subordinate of the Board of Nursing.
<b>DATE AND TIME:</b>	May 26, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.
<b>PLACE:</b>	Virginia Department of Health Professions Perimeter Center - 9960 Mayland Drive 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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.

**DEFAULT:**

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: May 19, 2016. Submit five copies of all documents you want the Board to consider to Sylvia Tamayo-Suijk, 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 Sylvia Tamayo-Suijk at the above address: May 19, 2016. NOTE: the failure to object to exhibits does not deprive you of the right to contest their contents at the proceeding.

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**STATEMENT OF ALLEGATIONS**

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The Board of Nursing alleges that:

1. At all times relevant hereto, Heather Lynn Hodges, R.N. was licensed to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

2. Ms. Hodges violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(6) in that Ms. Hodges may be unable to safely practice professional nursing due to her admitted alcohol abuse and mental illness, as evidenced by the following:

a. On or about November 14, 2015, Ms. Hodges was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, first offense, in the Henrico County, Virginia, General District Court, following a single vehicle accident.

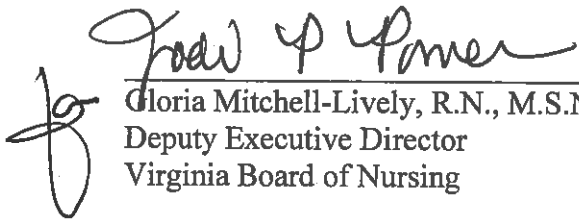
b. On or about December 3, 2015, Ms. Hodges was seen at VCU Health System, Richmond, Virginia, for a psychiatric evaluation. Ms. Hodges refused an alcohol and drug screen. The evaluator stated in his report that Ms. Hodges' presentation suggested acute alcohol intoxication.

c. On or about December 27, 2015, Ms. Hodges was admitted to Tucker Pavilion, Richmond, Virginia, by temporary detention order. Ms. Hodges was diagnosed with mood disorder, NOS, and alcohol dependence.

d. By her own admission, Ms. Hodges suffers with depression.

3. Ms. Hodges violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(5) and (6) in that on or about November 23, 2015, and November 30, 2015, during the course of her employment with McGuire VA Medical Center, Richmond, Virginia, Ms. Hodges reported to work smelling of alcohol. In or about

August 2015, a patient's family member reported that Ms. Hodges was disrespectful and smelled of alcohol. Further, on or about March 4, 2015, Ms. Hodges was discovered sleeping while on duty.

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

May 3, 2016  
Date