

**VIRGINIA:**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE: SAMANTHA EDWARDS, C.N.A.  
Certificate No.: 1401-130801**

**ORDER**

Pursuant to §§ 2.2-4020, 54.1-110 and 54.1-2400(11) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code"), a formal administrative hearing was held before a panel of the Board of Nursing ("Board") on June 2, 2014, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Samantha Edwards, C.N.A., may have violated certain laws governing nurse aide practice in Virginia. The case was presented by Tammie D. Jones, Adjudication Specialist, Administrative Proceedings Division. Charis A. Mitchell, Assistant Attorney General, was present as legal counsel for the Board. Ms. Edwards was present and was not represented by legal counsel. The proceedings were recorded by a certified court reporter.

Upon consideration of the evidence presented, the Board adopted the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Samantha Edwards, C.N.A., was issued Certificate No. 1401-130801 to practice as a nurse aide in the Commonwealth of Virginia on June 23, 2009. Said certificate expires on June 30, 2014.
2. Ms. Edwards was hospitalized at the Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, from July 3 -12, 2013, for psychosis and use of cannabis. Ms. Edwards was returned to the emergency room on July 13, 2013, for exhibiting bizarre and inappropriate behavior, and was admitted for one day.
3. Ms. Edwards presented a letter from the Hanover County Community Services Board dated May 22, 2014, which states that she is receiving mental health services. She has been diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder I and is prescribed lithium carbonate.
4. Ms. Edwards has been employed at Autumn Care of Mechanicsville since June 18, 2013. Her supervisor submitted a letter on Ms. Edwards' behalf.

5. Ms. Edwards testified that she does not remember all of the events that led up to her hospitalizations. Although she first testified that she does not use marijuana and does not have any other addictive substance problems, she testified that she could not remember if she had used marijuana or alcohol after her July 2013, discharge from the hospital.

6. Ms. Edwards testified that she is in regular treatment with a psychiatrist and a licensed clinical social worker through her local community services board. She said that she could progress in this treatment for the long term.

7. Ms. Edwards testified that Mr. and Mrs. Epperly are her support system and that she currently lives with them. Mr. Epperly testified at the hearing on her behalf. He testified that Ms. Edwards does not consume alcohol or marijuana and that Ms. Edwards is consistent in taking her medications. He testified that she appears to be doing very well under her current treatment.

8. Ms. Edwards' mental health has not caused concerns with her provision of patient care.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The Board concludes that Finding of Fact No. 2 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code.

### **ORDER**

WHEREFORE, the Virginia Board of Nursing, effective upon entry of this Order, hereby ORDERS that Samantha Edwards, C.N.A., is hereby placed on PROBATION subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. The period of probation shall begin on the date that this Order is entered and shall end at such time as Ms. Edwards has completed two years of active employment as a certified nurse aide. The certificate of Ms. Edwards shall be reinstated without restriction at the completion of the probationary period without a hearing unless there is a pending investigation or unresolved allegation involving a violation of law, regulation or any term or condition of probation. In that event, the period of probation shall be continued indefinitely or until such time as the Board makes a case decision in accordance with the Administrative Process Act, § 2.2-4000 et seq. and § 54.1-2400(9) et seq. of the Code.

2. Ms. Edwards shall inform the Board in writing within ten days of the date she begins nurse aide practice, or changes employment, or if any interruption in nurse aide practice occurs. Additionally, Ms. Edwards shall provide the name and address of each employer to the Board.
3. Ms. Edwards shall inform her current nurse aide employer and each future nurse aide employer that the Board has placed her on probation and shall provide each employer with a complete copy of this Order. If Ms. Edwards is employed through a staffing agency, she shall inform her supervisor in each facility where assigned that she is on probation.
4. Ms. Edwards shall direct her therapist to submit a recommended course of therapy, and a prognosis to the Board within 45 days from the date this Order is entered. Ms. Edwards shall comply with any recommendations of the specialist. If therapy is recommended, written quarterly progress reports by the therapist shall be sent to the Board by the last day of the months of March, June, September and December until Ms. Edwards is discharged from therapy. Ms. Edwards shall direct the therapist to notify the Board if she withdraws from the treatment program before being officially discharged by the therapist.
5. Ms. Edwards shall not use alcohol or any other mood altering chemical, except as prescribed by a health care practitioner with whom she has a bona fide practitioner/patient relationship and for accepted medicinal or therapeutic purposes. Should she be prescribed any Schedule II-V controlled medication, a written report from the prescribing practitioner shall be provided to the Board within ten days of the date the medication is prescribed.
6. Ms. Edwards shall provide all current and future treating practitioners with a complete copy of this Order and shall execute an Authorization for Disclosure of Information form providing for unrestricted communication between the Board and any court-appointed probation or parole officers and any consultants designated by the Board.
7. Ms. Edwards shall submit quarterly "Self-Reports" which include a current address, telephone number, and verification of all current employment. These reports shall also include any changes in

employment status. The first report must be received in the Board office no later than 60 days from the date this Order is entered. Subsequent reports must be received quarterly by the last day of the months of March, June, September and December until the period of probation ends.

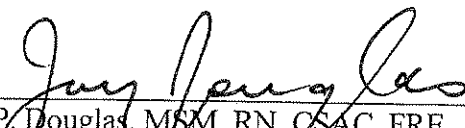
8. Ms. Edwards shall maintain a course of conduct in her capacity as a nurse aide commensurate with the requirements of § 54.1-3000 *et seq.* of the Code and the Regulations Governing Certified Nurse Aides.

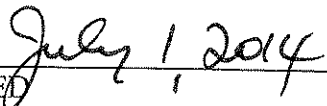
9. Ms. Edwards shall return all copies of her certificate to practice as a certified nurse aide to the Board office within ten days of the date of entry of this Order, along with a payment of a fee of \$15.00. Upon receipt, the Board shall issue a new certificate marked "Probation with Terms."

10. Any violation of the stated terms and conditions contained in this Order, or failure to comply with all terms of this Order within five years of the date of entry of the Order, shall be reason for suspending or revoking the certificate of Samantha Edwards, C.N.A., and an administrative proceeding may be held to determine whether her certificate shall be suspended or revoked.

Pursuant to §§ 2.2-4023 and 54.1-2400.2 of the Code, the signed original of this Order shall remain in the custody of the Department of Health Professions as public record and shall be made available for public inspection or copying on request.

FOR THE BOARD

  
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Jay P. Douglas, MSM, RN, QSAC, FRE  
Executive Director  
Virginia Board of Nursing

  
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ENTERED

**Certified True Copy**

By 

**Virginia Board of Nursing**

**NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL**

As provided by Rule 2A:2 of the Supreme Court of Virginia, you have 30 days from the date you are served with this Order in which to appeal this decision by filing a Notice of Appeal with Jay P. Douglas, M.S.M., R.N., C.S.A.C., F.R.E., Executive Director, Board of Nursing, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233. The service date shall be defined as the date you actually received this decision or the date it was mailed to you, whichever occurred first. In the event this decision is served upon you by mail, three days are added to that period.