

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: TAMELA WILLIAMSON, R.N., C.N.S.
License Number: 0001-094356
Registration Number: 0015-000199
Case Numbers: 178557, 178559

ORDER

JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4020, 2.2-4024(F), and 54.1-2400(11), a panel of the Virginia Board of Nursing (“Board”) held a formal administrative hearing on May 15, 2017, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Tamela Williamson, R.N., C.N.S., may have violated certain laws governing the practice of nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia and certain terms of an Order of the Board entered on July 22, 2015.

Tamela Williamson, R.N., C.N.S., appeared at this proceeding and was not represented by legal counsel.

NOTICE

By letter dated April 21, 2017, the Board sent a Notice of Formal Hearing (“Notice”) to Ms. Williamson notifying her that a formal administrative hearing would be held on May 15, 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 Board adopts the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and issues the Order contained herein.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Tamela Williamson, R.N., C.N.S., was issued License No. 0001-094356 to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia on August 22, 1984. She was issued Registration No. 0015-000199 to practice as a clinical nurse specialist on January 23, 1991.

2. By Consent Order entered January 15, 2013, the Board took no action against Ms. Williamson's license and registration contingent on her compliance with the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP"). This Order was based on findings that she was unsafe to practice professional nursing and as a clinical nurse specialist due to her diagnoses of alcohol dependence and depression, her conviction of driving under the influence, and her history of a cycle of relapse, treatment, and relapse. After she was dismissed from the HPMP, the Board entered an Order on February 7, 2014, in which it suspended her license but stayed the suspension contingent on her re-entry into and compliance with the HPMP. Ms. Williamson again relapsed and was dismissed from the HPMP, and the stay of suspension was rescinded in March 2015. After a formal hearing, the Board entered another Order on July 22, 2015, continuing Ms. Williamson's license and registration on indefinite suspension and again staying the suspension contingent on her re-entry into and compliance with the HPMP.

3. Ms. Williamson entered a Participation Contract with the HPMP on June 20, 2016, and the first of three Recovery Monitoring Contracts on July 25, 2016.

4. On January 20, 2017, Ms. Williamson was dismissed from the HPMP for noncompliance with her Program contract. Specifically, she had failed to enter and complete treatment as recommended, continued to use alcohol, failed to comply with the toxicology screening program, failed to submit monthly reports, and failed to respond to HPMP communications.

5. Ms. Williamson was approved to look for practice employment in August 2015. She began working for the Hospice of Virginia as a clinical liaison in early December 2016. She worked there for approximately two weeks, until HPMP was notified that she tested positive for alcohol and HPMP required her to refrain from practice. Prior to her employment with Hospice of Virginia, Ms. Williamson last practiced nursing in 2012.

6. Ms. Williamson told the Board that she has the disease of alcoholism. When discussing her participation in the HPMP, Ms. Williamson testified that she had difficulties with her HPMP case manager, which caused her stress. She told the Board she had other stressors at the time, including her living environment and her marital relationship.

7. Ms. Williamson testified that her date of sobriety is February 20, 2017.

8. Evidence revealed that Ms. Williamson has been in the HPMP three times and has been dismissed three times, each time with a different case manager. She testified that HPMP and the structure of it was part of the reason that she was dismissed, because it did not work well for her. Initially Ms. Williamson did not take ownership for her dismissal from HPMP, which occurred because of her relapse with alcohol. When asked who is responsible for her sobriety, she said she is accountable for it.

9. Ms. Williamson presented a plan that she intends to follow to maintain her sobriety, including scheduled meetings with a therapist and psychiatrist. She has a sponsor and said she attends alcoholics anonymous meetings every day. At the hearing, Ms. Williamson stated that she wants to maintain her sobriety.

10. When asked how she has stayed current with nursing practice, she said she receives journals from the oncology nursing society. She further stated that she has not been a bedside nurse in a long time, and she has not kept her skills current. Later in the hearing, she told the Board she finished modules at Hospice of Virginia, which she believed were contact hours.

11. Ms. Williamson said that she cannot say whether she will relapse again but that she will follow the instruction of her sponsor and the AA program. She told the Board she is working on meditation and exercise as a way to cope with stress.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

Finding of Fact No. 4 constitutes a violation of Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(6) and Term Number 6(a) of the Order of the Board entered July 22, 2015.

ORDER

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

1. Tamela Williamson, R.N., C.N.S., is REPRIMANDED.
2. The license and registration issued to Tamela Williamson, R.N., C.N.S., to practice professional nursing and as a clinical nurse specialist in the Commonwealth of Virginia are CONTINUED ON INDEFINITE SUSPENSION for a period of not less than two years from the date of entry of this Order.
3. The license and registration of Tamela Williamson, R.N., C.N.S., will be recorded as SUSPENDED.
4. This suspension applies to any multistate privilege to practice professional nursing.
5. Should Tamela Williamson, R.N., C.N.S., seek reinstatement of her license and registration, an administrative proceeding shall be convened to consider such application. At such time, the burden shall be on Ms. Williamson to demonstrate that she is safe and competent to return to the practice of nursing. Ms. Williamson shall be responsible for any fees that may be required for the reinstatement and/or renewal of the license and registration prior to issuance of the license and registration to resume practice.

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



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

ENTERED AND MAILED ON:

May 26, 2017

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, 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.

Certified True Copy

By dgraham
Virginia Board Of Nursing