

**VIRGINIA:**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE:           STEPHANE W. KEY, L.P.N.**  
**License No.: 0002-053579**

**ORDER**

In accordance with §§ 2.2-4019, 2.2-4021 and 54.1-2400(10) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code"), an informal conference was conducted on behalf of the Board of Nursing ("Board") on February 2, 2016, in Henrico County, Virginia. Ms. Key was present and was not represented by legal counsel. Judith Piersall, R.N., B.S.N., serving as Agency Subordinate for the Board, submitted a Recommended Decision for consideration.

On March 23, 2016, a quorum of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. Ms. Key was not present nor was she represented by legal counsel.

Based upon its review of the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate, the Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and issues the following Order.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1.     Stephanie W. Key, L.P.N. was issued License No. 0002-053579 to practice practical nursing in Virginia on October 1, 1996. The license is scheduled to expire on May 31, 2017. Ms. Key was previously licensed in North Carolina. On April 2, 1997, the North Carolina Board of Nursing reprimanded Ms. Key for practicing nursing without a valid license for three months. Ms. Key's primary state of residence is Virginia.
2.     By letter dated January 4, 2016, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Key notifying her that an informal conference would be held on February 2, 2016. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 384 Joe Carter Road, Danville, Virginia 24541, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing.

3. During the course of her employment with Centra Medical Group, Danville, Virginia, on January 30 and 31, 2015, Ms. Key forged excuse notes for three individuals using the signatures of a physician and a licensed nurse practitioner without these practitioners' knowledge or permission. The individuals for whom she forged excuses were high school students. Ms. Key knew their parents and was requested to provide the excuses for time missed from school during family vacation in order for the students to be allowed to make up work missed.

4. As a result of this incident, Ms. Key's employment with Centra Medical Group was terminated effective February 12, 2015, after a three and half year employment.

5. At the informal conference, Ms. Key was extremely remorseful and said that she would never make such an error in judgement again. She stated that she had apologized to the physician and submitted a letter of apology to the nurse practitioner involved in this incident.

6. Ms. Key submitted multiple letters of support to the Board for consideration. The letters of support included one from physician whose name she had forged.

7. Ms. Key stated that she continues to work part-time at the Emergency Department at Danville Regional Medical Center, Danville, Virginia and part-time at Fresenius Medical, Danville, Virginia.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Finding of Fact No. 3 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(2) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(e) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing

### ORDER

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. Stephanie W. Key, L.P.N. is hereby REPRIMANDED.
2. Ms. Key shall provide the Board with verification that she has completed the following

NCSBN courses within 60 days of the entry of this Order: *Disciplinary Actions: What Every Nurse Should Know* and *Ethics in Nursing Practice*. These courses shall not be credited toward the continued competency requirements for the next renewal of her license.


3. Ms. Key shall maintain a course of conduct in her capacity as a practical nurse commensurate with the requirements of § 54.1-3000 *et seq.* of the Code and the Board of Nursing Regulations.

4. Any violation of the terms and conditions of this Order or of any law or regulation affecting the practice of nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia shall constitute grounds for the suspension or revocation of the license of Ms. Key and an administrative proceeding shall be convened to determine whether such license shall be suspended or revoked.

Pursuant to § 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 a public record, and shall be made available for public inspection and copying upon request.

Pursuant to Section 54.1-2400(10) of the Code, Ms. Key may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on May 2, 2016, notify 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, 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.

FOR THE BOARD:

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

ENTERED: March 30, 2016

Certified True Copy

By:   
Virginia Board of Nursing

This Order shall become final on May 2, 2016, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.