

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: JACQUELINE HATCH SAWYER, R.N.
License Number: 0001-174504
Issue Date: July 12, 2001
Suspension Date: February 8, 2017
Case Number: 176791

**NOTICE OF FORMAL ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
AND STATEMENT OF ALLEGATIONS**

You are hereby notified that a Formal Hearing has been scheduled before the Board of Nursing (“Board”) regarding your license to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

TYPE OF PROCEEDING:	This is a formal administrative hearing before a panel of the Board.
DATE AND TIME:	May 18, 2017 9:00 A.M.
PLACE:	Virginia Department of Health Professions Perimeter Center - 9960 Mayland Drive 2 nd Floor - Virginia Conference Center Henrico, Virginia 23233

LEGAL AUTHORITY AND JURISDICTION:

1. This formal hearing is being held pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4020, 2.2-4024(F), and 54.1-2400(11). This proceeding will be convened as a public meeting pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3700.

2. At the conclusion of the proceeding, the Board is authorized to take any of the following actions:

- Exonerate you;
- Reprimand you;
- Require you to pay a monetary penalty;
- Place you on probation and/or under terms and conditions;
- Suspend your license;
- Revoke your license.

ABSENCE OF RESPONDENT AND RESPONDENT'S COUNSEL:

If you fail to appear at the formal hearing, the Board 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 Board will rely in making its 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 EXHIBITS:

Enclosed is a copy of the documents that will be distributed to the members of the Board and will be considered by the Board 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 formal hearing.**

FILING DEADLINES:

1. Deadline for filing exhibits: **May 10, 2017**. Submit 15 copies of all documents you want the Board to consider to Darlene Graham, Board of Nursing, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233. Exhibits may not be sent by facsimile or e-mail. Please note that any documentation or evidence that you previously submitted for an informal conference that is not already part of the Commonwealth's evidence must be resubmitted as an exhibit if you want the Board to consider it at the hearing.

The Commonwealth must file any objections to your submissions in writing, addressed to Darlene Graham at the Board office, no later than **May 11, 2017**. If no objections have been received by **May 11, 2017**, the evidence will be distributed to the Board members for their review, and will be considered by the Board as evidence when it deliberates upon your case. If the Commonwealth raises objections, you have until **May 12, 2017**, to file your response to the objections, in writing and addressed to Darlene Graham at the Board office. The Chair of the proceeding will rule on the motion.

2. Deadline for filing motions: **May 10, 2017**, addressed to Darlene Graham at the above address.

3. Deadline for filing any objections to the Commonwealth's exhibits, in writing, to Darlene Graham at the above address: **May 10, 2017**. If you do not file objections by this date, the exhibits will be distributed to the Board members for their review prior to your hearing, and will be considered by the Board as evidence when it deliberates on your case. If you do file objections, the Commonwealth has until **May 10, 2017** to file a response to the objections, in writing, and addressed to Darlene Graham at the Board office. The Chair of the proceeding will rule on the motion. NOTE: failure to object to the distribution of the Commonwealth's exhibits prior to the proceeding will not affect your right to contest any information contained in those exhibits at the proceeding.

REQUEST FOR A CONTINUANCE:

Absent exigent circumstances, such as personal or family illness, a request for a continuance after **May 10, 2017** will not be considered. If you obtain counsel, you should do so as soon as possible, as a motion for a continuance due to the unavailability of counsel will not be considered unless received by **May 10, 2017**.

STATEMENT OF ALLEGATIONS

The Board alleges that:

1. At all times relevant hereto, Jacqueline Hatch Sawyer, R.N., was licensed to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

2. Jacqueline Hatch Sawyer, R.N., violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(6) and Term Number 3 of the Order of the Board entered May 17, 2016 (“Board’s Order”), which required her to continue to comply with all terms and conditions of the Health Practitioners’ Monitoring Program (“HPMP”), in that on or about February 6, 2017, Ms. Sawyer was urgently dismissed from the HPMP due to her noncompliance with her Recovery Monitoring Contract. Specifically, she failed to enter and complete treatment as recommended, continued to use alcohol, and failed to comply with the toxicology screening program.

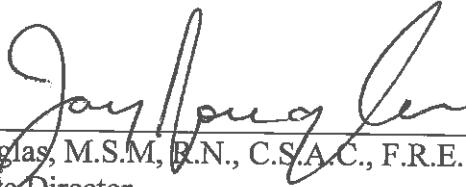
3. Ms. Sawyer violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(6) in that she is unsafe to practice professional nursing due to substance abuse and mental illness, as evidenced by the following:

a. On or about October 11, 2016, Ms. Sawyer was admitted to Chippenham Medical Center, Tucker Pavilion, Richmond, Virginia, following an attempted suicide. She had ingested between 50 and 100 aspirin, and admitted to hospital staff that she was drinking four bottles of wine per day. Ms. Sawyer was diagnosed with posttraumatic stress disorder, history of bipolar disorder and alcohol dependence.

b. On or about January 23, 2017, Ms. Sawyer was admitted to Chippenham Medical Center, Tucker Pavilion, following a suicide attempt. She was found by a relative with a rope around her neck attempting to hang herself. Ms. Sawyer stated to hospital staff that she was consuming six bottles of wine per day. She was diagnosed with major depression, recurrent and alcohol dependence.

c. On February 3, 2017, Ms. Sawyer was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated, first offence, in Chesterfield, Virginia.

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400.2(K), the Board considered whether to disclose or not disclose Ms. Sawyer's health records or health services.



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

April 26th, 2017
Date