

**BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE: DENISE HAYWOOD PATTERSON, R.N. REINSTATEMENT APPLICANT**  
**License Number: 0001-152244**  
**Case Number: 174202**

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**ORDER**

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**JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4019 and 54.1-2400(10), a Special Conference Committee of the Virginia Board of Nursing (“Board”) held an informal conference on December 15, 2016, in Henrico County, Virginia, to receive and act upon Denise Haywood Patterson’s application for reinstatement of her license to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Denise Haywood Patterson did not appear at this proceeding and was not represented by legal counsel.

**NOTICE**

By letter dated November 18, 2016, the Board sent a Notice of Informal Conference (“Notice”) to Ms. Patterson notifying her that an informal conference would be held on December 15, 2016. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to the legal address of record on file with the Board. According to the USPS tracking website, notice of the certified mail package was left at Ms. Patterson’s address of record on November 19, 2016. The certified mail package was returned unclaimed to the Board office. The Notice sent by first class mail was not returned to the Board office. Accordingly, the Committee Chair concluded that adequate notice was provided to Ms. Patterson and the informal conference proceeded in her absence.

Upon consideration of the evidence, the Committee adopts the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and issues the Order contained herein.

## FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Denise Haywood Patterson was issued License Number 0001-152244 to practice professional nursing on February 13, 1997, which was indefinitely suspended on April 27, 2016. Her primary state of residence is Virginia.
2. By Order of the Board entered April 27, 2016, Ms. Patterson’s license was indefinitely suspended based on findings of impairment and patient abandonment.
3. As the applicant, Ms. Patterson had the burden to demonstrate to the Board that she is safe and competent to practice as a professional nurse and she did not appear.
4. Ms. Patterson violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(5) and (6) in that during the course of her employment with Brandermill Woods, Midlothian, Virginia, between December 25 and 27, 2015, by her own admission, she failed to report for scheduled work shifts because she had been binge drinking.
5. Ms. Patterson violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(6), as evidenced by the following:
  - a. Between August 14 and 19, 2015, at Bon Secours St. Francis Medical Center, Midlothian, Virginia (“St. Francis Medical Center”), Ms. Patterson received inpatient treatment for diagnoses including alcoholic cirrhosis, chronic alcohol abuse, and alcoholism.
  - b. On December 26, 2015, at St. Francis Medical Center, Ms. Patterson received treatment for alcohol intoxication and withdrawal.
  - c. On February 9, 2016, at Bon Secours, St. Mary’s Hospital, Richmond, Virginia, Ms. Patterson received emergency treatment for alcohol abuse and alcohol detoxification.
  - d. Between February 10 and April 5, 2016, at the Farley Center at Williamsburg Place, Williamsburg, Virginia, Ms. Patterson received inpatient treatment for alcohol detoxification, followed by intensive outpatient treatment between April 6 and May 17, 2016.

e. On March 12, 2016, Ms. Patterson signed a Participation Contract with the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP") in which she acknowledged that her ability to practice nursing may be impaired by her alcohol abuse.

f. On September 27, 2016, Ms. Patterson attended group therapy session smelling of alcohol and submitted a breathalyzer test with a BAC of 0.082. On September 30, 2016, Ms. Patterson told her HPMP case manager that between September 23 and 26, 2016, she had consumed 1.5 liters of wine a day.

6. Ms. Patterson was dismissed from the HPMP on November 18, 2016 for noncompliance with treatment, toxicology screening, and HPMP communication and continued use of alcohol.

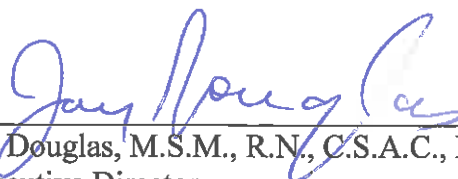
7. Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400.2(K), the Board considered whether to disclose or not disclose Ms. Patterson's health records or health services.

### **ORDER**

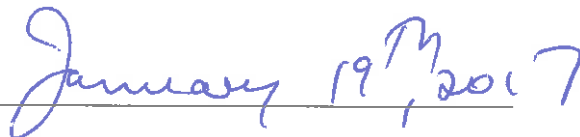
Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Virginia Board of Nursing hereby ORDERS that the application of Denise Haywood Patterson for reinstatement of her license to practice professional nursing is DENIED. Should she petition the Board for reinstatement of her license, an administrative proceeding will be convened to determine whether Ms. Patterson is able to return to the safe and competent practice of professional nursing. Ms. Patterson shall be responsible for any fees that may be required for the reinstatement and/or renewal of the license prior to issuance of the license 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

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

ENTERED AND MAILED: \_\_\_\_\_



**NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL**

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400(10), Ms. Patterson may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on February 21, 2017, notify Jay 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. This Order shall become final on February 21, 2017, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.