

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: VALERIE LEWIS-SPRINGFIELD, R.N. REINSTATEMENT APPLICANT
License No.: 0001-260537

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 March 23, 2016, in Henrico County, Virginia, to receive and act upon Valerie Lewis-Springfield's application for reinstatement of her license to practice professional nursing in Virginia, and to inquire into evidence that Ms. Lewis-Springfield may have violated certain laws and regulations governing nursing practice in Virginia. The case was presented by Cynthia E. Gaines, Adjudication Specialist, Administrative Proceedings Division. Charis Mitchell, Assistant Attorney General, was present as legal counsel for the Board. Ms. Lewis-Springfield was not 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. Valerie Lewis-Springfield, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-260537 to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia on July 31, 2015. Said license was mandatorily suspended pursuant to § 54.1-2409 of the Code by Order of the Department of Health Professions entered on December 3, 2015.
2. Based upon the representations of Cynthia E. Gaines, Adjudication Specialist, and Commonwealth's Exhibit No. 1, the Notice of Formal Hearing and Affidavit of Mailing, the presiding officer ruled that adequate notice was provided to the respondent and the hearing proceeded in her absence.

3 Ms. Lewis-Springfield submitted an application for reinstatement of her license to the Board on December 22, 2015. Ms. Lewis-Springfield declared Virginia as her primary state of residence.

4 On September 30, 2015, Ms. Lewis-Springfield's license to practice professional nursing issued by the Missouri Board of Nursing was suspended due to her failure to file state tax returns and/or pay her state tax liabilities.

5 On her initial application for licensure by endorsement dated June 18, 2015, and her application for reinstatement to practice professional nursing dated December 22, 2015, Ms. Lewis-Springfield answered "NO" to the question "Have you ever had disciplinary action taken against your license to practice in a state or against your multi-state privilege to practice?" when, in fact, her Missouri nursing license was suspended in 2015 and in 2013 for failing to file state tax returns and/or pay state taxes.

6 On February 23, 2016, the Illinois Board of Nursing refused to renew Ms. Lewis-Springfield's license to practice professional nursing due to her failure to notify them that her license in Missouri had been suspended due to her failure to file and/or pay her taxes.

7 On March 16, 2016, the Missouri Board of Nursing issued Ms. Lewis-Springfield a single state license to practice professional nursing. Ms. Lewis-Springfield declared Missouri as her primary state of residence.

8 The evidence in the record before the Board was inconclusive as to where Ms. Lewis-Springfield has her primary state of residence.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Board concludes that:

1. Findings of Fact No. 4 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(7) of the Code.
2. Finding of Fact No.5 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(1) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(1)(b) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing.

ORDER

WHEREFORE, the Virginia Board of Nursing, effective upon entry of this Order, hereby ORDERS as follows:

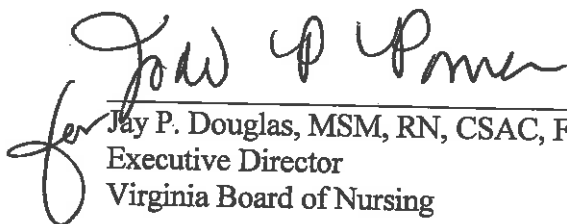
1. The application of Valerie Lewis-Springfield for reinstatement of License No. 0001-260537 to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia is hereby DENIED, due to a failure to obtain the affirmative vote for reinstatement of three-fourths of the members of the Board at the hearing. Further, it is hereby ORDERED that the license of Ms. Lewis-Springfield be CONTINUED on INDEFINITE SUSPENSION. At such time as she shall petition the Board for reinstatement of her license, an administrative proceeding will be convened to determine whether she is able to return to the safe and competent practice of professional nursing.

2. The license shall be recorded as suspended.

3. This Order shall be applicable to Ms. Lewis-Springfield's multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

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



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

April 12, 2016
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, MSM, RN, CSAC, FRE, 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.