

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

**IN RE: PAULA V. SCHIFFERLI, R.N.
License No.: 0001-162494**

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 January 12, 2016, in Henrico County, Virginia. Paula V. Schifferli, R.N., was not present nor was she represented by legal counsel. Jane Elliott, R.N., Ph.D., 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. Schifferli 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. Paula V. Schifferli, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-162494 to practice professional nursing in Virginia on January 21, 1999. The license is scheduled to expire on May 31, 2016. Her primary state of residence is Virginia.

2. By letter dated December 17, 2015, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Schifferli notifying her that an informal conference would be held on January 12, 2016. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 51 Waters Edge Circle, Hampton, Virginia 23669, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing. As of January 12, 2016, USPS website indicated that the certified mail was waiting at the post office; the first class mail was

not returned to the Board office. The Agency Subordinate concluded that adequate notice was provided to Ms. Schifferli and the informal conference proceeded in her absence.

3. During the course of her employment with DaVita Dialysis, Hampton, Virginia, while on assignment at Sentara CarePlex Hospital, Hampton, Virginia, on July 8, 2015, Ms. Schifferli invited her family members into the dialysis area and visited with them while a patient was dialyzing, knowing that this patient had undergone seizure activity during treatment.

4. A staff member witnessed the family members present in the dialysis area and reported that the patient was left alone while Ms. Schifferli went to greet her family.

5. Ms. Schifferli resigned in lieu of termination on July 23, 2015.

6. On April 1, 2015, Ms. Schifferli was arrested in the Sentara CarePlex Hospital parking lot prior to her assigned shift, for driving while under the influence. On June 9, 2015, in the Hampton, Virginia, General District Court, Ms. Schifferli was convicted of said offense. She was sentenced to 30 days in jail with 25 days suspended, and ordered to complete the Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program ("VASAP").

7. On August 12, 2015, Ms. Schifferli entered a Participation Contract with the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP"), wherein she acknowledged chemical abuse and/or dependency and/or mental illness and/or physical illness that may impair her ability to practice safely. Ms. Schifferli resigned from the HPMP on August 31, 2015, stating that she would take responsibility for her own treatment. Ms. Schifferli reported that she is receiving treatment for alcohol abuse at the Oasis Counseling Center, Hampton, Virginia. By letter dated September 22, 2015, the Oasis Counseling Center reported that Ms. Schifferli was attending court-mandated substance abuse classes and had completed eight out of twelve sessions. Her anticipated completion date was October 14, 2015.

8. On August 26, 2015, during an interview with an investigator from the Department of Health Professions, Ms. Schifferli reported that she last drank alcohol on April 1, 2015. She also stated that she decided not to participate in the HPMP due to the cost and amount of time required to be in counseling; she could retire in seven months and would rather work in a job other than nursing.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Finding of Fact No. 3 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(2), (5) and (8) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(f) and (m) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing.
2. Finding of Fact No. 6 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code.

ORDER

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

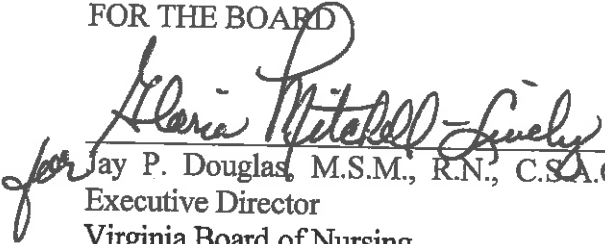
1. License No. 0001-162494 of Paula V. Schifferli, R.N., is INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED.
2. The license will be recorded as suspended and no longer current.
3. At such time as Ms. Schifferli shall petition the Board for reinstatement of her license, an administrative proceeding will be convened to determine whether she is capable of resuming the safe and competent practice of professional nursing. Ms. Schifferli shall be responsible for any fees that may be required for the reinstatement and renewal of the license prior to issuance of the license to resume practice.
4. This suspension applies to any multistate privilege to practice professional nursing.

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.

Since Ms. Schifferli failed to appear at the informal conference, this Order shall be considered

final. Ms. Schifferli has the right to appeal this Order directly to the appropriate Virginia circuit court. As provided by Rule 2A:2 of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Ms. Schifferli has thirty (30) days from the date of service (the date she actually received this decision or the date it was mailed to her, whichever occurred first) within which to appeal this decision by filing a Notice of Appeal with Jay P. Douglas, M.S.M., R.N., C.S.A.C., F.R.E., Executive Director, Board of Nursing, at Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Richmond, Virginia 23233. In the event that this decision is served by mail, three (3) days are added to that period.

FOR THE BOARD

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

Entered: April 1, 2016

Certified True Copy

By 
Virginia Board of Nursing