

**VIRGINIA:**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE:       CAROLYN L. HARRIS, L.P.N.**  
**License No.: 0002-070427**

**ORDER**

Pursuant to §§ 2.2-4019, 2.2-4021, and 54.1-2400(10) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended (“Code”), a Special Conference Committee (“Committee”) of the Virginia Board of Nursing (“Board”) met on February 17, 2016 in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Carolyn L. Harris, L.P.N. may have violated certain laws and regulations governing practical nursing practice in Virginia. Ms. Harris was not present and was not represented by counsel.

Upon consideration of the evidence, the Committee adopts the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Carolyn L. Harris, L.P.N. was issued License No. 0002-070427 to practice practical nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia on December 10, 2004. Said license expires on April 30, 2016. Ms. Harris also holds a license to practice practical nursing in New Jersey. Her primary state of residence is Virginia.
2. By letter dated January 13, 2016, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference (“Notice”) to Ms. Harris notifying her that an informal conference would be held on February 17, 2016. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 1640 Johnson Road, Apt. 111D, Petersburg, Virginia 23805, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing. According to the USPS tracking website, notice was left at Ms. Harris’ address of record on January 14, 2016, and the Notice sent by certified mail was returned unclaimed to the Board office on February 16, 2016. The Notice sent by first class mail was not returned to the

Board office. The Committee Chair concluded that adequate notice was provided to Ms. Harris and the informal conference proceeded in her absence.

3. During the course of her employment with Central State Hospital, Petersburg, Virginia, on April 12, 2015, Ms. Harris had a verbal altercation with a patient and failed to de-escalate the situation. By her own admission, Ms. Harris then used an open hand on the patient's face to push her backwards, causing the patient to fall on her buttocks. The patient did not sustain any injuries.

4. Ms. Harris' pushing the patient was a reaction to the patient striking Ms. Harris in the face, based on the accounts of multiple witnesses including the patient.

5. As a result of this incident, Ms. Harris' employment was terminated on April 21, 2015.

6. No criminal charges were pressed in the matter.

7. Ms. Harris has had no prior discipline before the Board as a licensed practical nurse or when she practiced as a certified nurse aide prior to that.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing.

#### ORDER

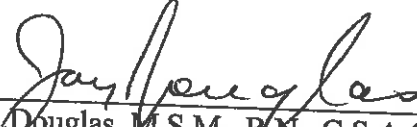
On the basis of the foregoing, the Committee hereby ORDERS as follows:

1. Carolyn L. Harris, L.P.N. is hereby REPRIMANDED.
2. Ms. Harris shall maintain a course of conduct in her capacity as a licensed practical nurse commensurate with the requirements of § 54.1-3000 *et seq.* of the Code and the Board of Nursing Regulations.

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.

Pursuant to Section 54.1-2400(10) of the Code, Ms. Harris may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on March 29, 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 COMMITTEE:

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

ENTERED: February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016

This Order shall become final on March 29, 2016; unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

**Certified True Copy**  
By D. Fowler  
**Virginia Board of Nursing**