

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: MARY JO PRISTERA, R.N.
License No.: 0001-068786

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 9, 2016, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Mary Jo Pristera, R.N. may have violated certain laws and regulations governing professional nursing practice in Virginia. Ms. Pristera 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. Mary Jo Pristera, R.N. was issued License No. 0001-068786 to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia on May 24, 1978. Said license expires on September 30, 2017. She also held expired licenses in Florida, New York, and Connecticut. Ms. Pristera's primary state of residence is Virginia.
2. By letter dated January 12, 2016, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Pristera notifying her that an informal conference would be held on February 9, 2016. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 10912 Lamberts Creek Lane, Chesterfield, Virginia 23832, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing. The certified mail receipt was returned to the Board office. 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. Pristera, and the informal conference proceeded in her absence.

3. During the course of her employment with Tucker Pavilion, Chippenham Johnston Willis Medical Center, Richmond, Virginia, on September 11, 2015, Ms. Pristera reported to duty after consuming alcohol and tested positive for alcohol in a for-cause drug screen, with a blood alcohol content of 0.114%.

4. Ms. Pristera was not scheduled to come into work on September 11, 2015. Ms. Pristera acknowledged to an investigator for the Department of Health Professions on October 27, 2015 that she had a lapse in judgment in agreeing to come in to work after having drinks earlier that day. Ms. Pristera emphasized that this was a “one time incident.” She resigned her employment after she was suspended for this incident.

5. On October 23, 2015, Ms. Pristera’s supervisor told the DHP investigator that Ms. Pristera was “deeply embarrassed and apologetic” about the incident. Ms. Pristera’s supervisor also stated that she had no prior concerns about Ms. Pristera’s nursing practice.

6. Ms. Pristera has no prior matters before the Board in her 38 years of nursing practice.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Finding of Fact No. 3 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(5) and (6) of the Code.

ORDER

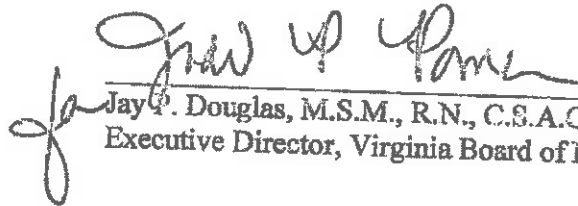
On the basis of the foregoing, the Committee hereby ORDERS as follows:

1. Mary Jo Pristera, R.N., is hereby REPRIMANDED.
2. Ms. Pristera shall maintain a course of conduct in her capacity as a professional 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. Pristera may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on March 23, 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:


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

ENTERED: February 19, 2016

This Order shall become final on March 23, 2016, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

Certified True Copy

By 
Virginia Board of Nursing