

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

**IN RE: SUZANNE GRIFFIN, R.N.
License No.: 0001-153051**

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 July 7, 2015, in Henrico County, Virginia. Suzanne Griffin, R.N. was present and was not represented by legal counsel. Judith Piersall, R.N., B.S.N., serving as Agency Subordinate for the Board, submitted a Recommended Decision for consideration.

On September 16, 2015, a quorum of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. Ms. Griffin 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. Suzanne Griffin, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-153051 to practice professional nursing in Virginia on April 30, 1997. The license is scheduled to expire on February 29, 2016. Ms. Griffin's primary state of residence is Virginia.
2. By letter dated June 12, 2015, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Griffin notifying her that an informal conference would be held on July 7, 2015. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 7519 Comet Road, Henrico, Virginia 23294, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing.

3. On December 6, 2014, Ms. Griffin was admitted to CJW Medical Center, Tucker Pavilion, Richmond, Virginia, by temporary detention order, with a provisional diagnosis of psychosis, not otherwise specified. Following discharge from Tucker Pavilion on December 12, 2014, she was voluntarily admitted to St. Mary's Hospital, Richmond, Virginia, with a diagnosis of brief psychotic disorder.

4. On June 6, 2013, Ms. Griffin was convicted of public intoxication in the Henrico, Virginia, General District Court. Ms. Griffin acknowledged to the investigator for the Department of Health Professions that she had a history of alcohol abuse and reported a sobriety date of February 17, 2015.

5. At the informal conference, Ms. Griffin denied that she told the investigator for the Department of Health Professions that she had a history of alcohol abuse. Ms. Griffin denied that she had an alcohol problem and stated that she had at least four drinks on July 4, 2015. She stated that she can control her drinking. She stated that she is a binge drinker, but does not consider that to be alcoholic behavior.

6. On April 25, 2015, during the course of her employment with American Critical Care Services, Richmond, Virginia, a client's father reported to Ms. Griffin's employer that he returned home to find his front door open and his foyer wet. When he asked her why the door was open, Ms. Griffin replied that she wanted the client, who has a tracheostomy, to feel the rain on her face, or words to that affect. Further, the client's father stated that Ms. Griffin's affect was zombie-like.

7. On May 8, 2015, Ms. Griffin's employment with American Critical Care Services was terminated. Ms. Griffin has had three employers in the last five years. Ms. Griffin stated that she is currently employed with Pediatric Connection, Richmond, Virginia.

8. Ms. Griffin stated that on the advice of her attorney, regarding a court case for public

intoxication in May 2015, she attended Higher Ground Recovery Center and Alcoholics Anonymous prior to the court case. Once her case was taken under consideration and dismissed, she stopped attending Higher Ground Recovery Center and Alcoholics Anonymous.

9. Although Ms. Griffin's primary area of practice is pediatrics, she stated that her ex-husband has full custody of her two children and she is allowed only supervised visits with her children.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Findings of Fact Nos. 3, 4 and 6 constitute a violation of § 54.1-3007(5) and (6) of the Code

ORDER

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. License No. 0001-153051 of Suzanne Griffin to practice professional nursing is INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED.

2. The license will be recorded as suspended and no longer current.

3. At such time as Ms. Griffin 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. Griffin 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.

5. This suspension shall be STAYED upon proof of entry into the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program. At such time, the indefinite suspension shall be STAYED and the following terms and conditions shall apply:

a. Ms. Griffin shall comply with all terms and conditions for the period specified

by the HPMP,

b. Any violation of the terms and conditions stated in this Order shall be reason for summarily rescinding the stay of indefinite suspension of the license of Ms. Griffin, and an administrative proceeding shall be held to determine whether her license shall be revoked. The stay of indefinite suspension may be summarily rescinded at such time the Board is notified that:

- i. Ms. Griffin is not in compliance with the terms and conditions specified by the HPMP;
- ii. Ms. Griffin's participation in the HPMP has been terminated;
- iii. There is a pending investigation or unresolved allegation against Ms. Griffin involving a violation of law, regulation, or any term or condition of this order.

6. Upon receipt of evidence of Ms. Griffin's participation and successful completion of the HPMP, the Board, at its discretion, may waive Ms. Griffin's appearance before a Committee and conduct an administrative review of this matter, at which time she may be issued an unrestricted license.

7. This Order is applicable to Ms. Griffin's multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice professional nursing. For the duration of this Order, Ms. Griffin shall not work outside of the Commonwealth of Virginia pursuant to a multistate licensure privilege without the written permission of the Virginia Board of Nursing and the Board of Nursing in the party state where Ms. Griffin wishes to work. Any requests for out of state employment should be directed, in writing, to the Executive Director of the Board.

8. Ms. Griffin 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 § 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.

Pursuant to Section 54.1-2400(10) of the Code, Ms. Griffin may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on November 8, 2015, 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 he/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 BOARD:

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

ENTERED: October 6, 2015

This Order shall become final on November 8, 2015, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

Certified True Copy

By *[Signature]*
Virginia Board of Nursing