

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: GRETCHEN CHAPMAN, R.N.
License No.: 0001-159383

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 December 15, 2015, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Gretchen Chapman, R.N., may have violated certain terms and conditions imposed on her license to practice professional nursing in Virginia, as set forth in the Order of the Board entered on October 6, 2014 (“Board’s Order”), and to inquire into evidence that Ms. Chapman may have violated certain laws governing nursing practice. Ms. Chapman was 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. Gretchen Chapman, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-159383 to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia on June 24, 1998. Said license expires on September 30, 2017. By Board Order entered October 6, 2014, no further action was taken against Ms. Chapman’s license to practice professional nursing contingent upon compliance with certain terms and conditions. Ms. Chapman’s primary state of residence is Virginia.

2. By letter dated September 10, 2015, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference (“Notice”) to Ms. Chapman notifying her that an informal conference would be held on December 15, 2015. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 13021 Lupine Turn, Woodbridge, Virginia, 22192, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing.

3. Term No. 1 of the Board's Order required Ms. Chapman to remain compliant with the terms and conditions of her contract with the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP"). On February 19, 2015, she was dismissed from the HPMP for noncompliance with her recovery monitoring contract. Specifically, she accepted employment as a companion in a home care setting without approval from the HPMP and she refused to allow HPMP to verify the position requirements. Further, she tested positive for alcohol on December 26, 2014.

4. Ms. Chapman stated to the Committee that she had been sick during the 2014 Christmas holiday, and had taken Nyquil for two to three days. She told her HPMP case manager that she had been ill and had taken Nyquil. The HPMP medical review officer determined that the client's explanation could account for the test results if she was being truthful.

5. Ms. Chapman stated that the employment that she accepted without the HPMP's approval was working as a sitter. She did not work as a nurse, but sat with an elderly woman who could not be left alone due to anxiety. Ms. Chapman stated that she did not administer any medications. Ms. Chapman stated that she did not want to tell the family about her situation regarding the HPMP.

6. Ms. Chapman admitted that she was addicted to opioids. She reported that her date of sobriety was January 1, 2014. She stated to the Committee that she attends Alcoholics Anonymous and/or Narcotics Anonymous twice a week. She has a sponsor and has completed the steps. Ms. Chapman stated that she works with her sponsor in the "Big Book." Ms. Chapman stated that she is not ready to become a sponsor herself at this time. She has a strong support system that includes her family and her sponsor.

7. On May 8, 2014, in the Circuit Court of Prince William County, Virginia, Ms. Chapman pled guilty to an amended charge of possession of a Scheduled I and II drug. Ms. Chapman stated that she received first offender status for prescription fraud in August 2014. She stated that she has paid all of her court costs and must see her probation officer once every three months. She receives drug screens through

her probation officer's office. Ms. Chapman stated that she expects to be released from probation in August 2016.

8. Ms. Chapman stated that she is willing to return to the HPMP.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Findings of Fact No. 3 constitutes a violation of Term 1 of the Board's Order and 54.1-3007(6) of the Code.

ORDER

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

1. Gretchen Chapman, R.N., is hereby REPRIMANDED.
2. Within 60 days of entry of this Order, Ms. Chapman shall re-enter into the HPMP. Thereafter, Ms. Chapman shall comply with all terms and conditions of the HPMP for the period specified by the HPMP.
3. This Order shall be applicable to Ms. Chapman's multistate licensure privilege, if any, to practice professional nursing. For the duration of this Order, Ms. Chapman shall not work outside 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. Chapman wishes to work. Any request for out of state employment shall be directed, in writing, to the Executive Director of the Board.
4. Any violation of the terms and conditions stated in this Order shall be reason for revoking the license of Ms. Chapman, and an administrative proceeding shall be held to decide whether her license should be revoked. Ms. Chapman shall be noticed to appear before the Board at such time as the Board is notified that:
 - a. Ms. Chapman has failed to make application to the HPMP;

b. Ms. Chapman is not in compliance with the terms and conditions of the HPMP, or has been terminated from participation in the HPMP;

c. There is a pending investigation or unresolved allegation against Ms. Chapman involving a violation of law or regulation or any term or condition of this Order; or


d. Ms. Chapman has successfully completed the above-referenced period of participation in the HPMP. However, upon receipt of Ms. Chapman's participation in and compliance with the HPMP, the Board, at its discretion, may waive Ms. Chapman's appearance before the Board and conduct an administrative review of this matter.

5. Ms. Chapman 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. Chapman may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on March 2, 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: January 29th, 2016

Certified True Copy

By 
Virginia Board of Nursing

This Order shall become final on March 2, 2016, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.