

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE:

LAKEISHA BRANCH, C.N.A. APPLICANT

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 1, 2015, in Henrico County, Virginia, to receive and act upon LaKeisha Branch’s application for certification by examination to practice as a nurse aide in Virginia and to inquire into allegations that grounds may exist to deny said application. Ms. Branch 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. LaKeisha Branch submitted an application for certification by examination to practice as a nurse aide, which was received by the Board on July 27, 2015.
2. By letter dated October 27, 2015, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference (“Notice”) to Ms. Branch notifying her that an informal conference would be held on December 1, 2015. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 846 Little Bay Avenue, Apartment G, Norfolk, Virginia, 23503, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing.
3. On July 7, 2009, Ms. Branch was convicted of one count of felony obtain food stamps under false pretenses in the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia, Circuit Court. She was sentenced to five years of incarceration, with five years suspended, and was required to pay restitution in the amount of \$7,823.00, at the rate of \$50 a month beginning August 1, 2009. At the informal conference, she stated that she is on a payment plan and she understands that she still owes approximately \$800.00.

4. Ms. Branch provided two letters attesting to her character. The letters were from her former coworkers at Beacon Shores Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Virginia Beach, Virginia, where Ms. Branch previously worked as a dietary aide.

5. At the informal conference, Ms. Branch stated that she has worked as a personal care assistant for over ten years. She stated that she enjoys the work, and it makes her feel good to be a care giver.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Finding of Fact No. 3 constitutes a violation of §54.1-3007(4) of the Code.
2. Ms. Branch otherwise meets the requirements of § 54.1-3023 of the Code.

ORDER

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

1. The application of LaKeisha Branch for certification by examination to practice as a nurse aide in the Commonwealth of Virginia is hereby APPROVED. Upon successful completion of the NNAAP examination, Ms. Branch shall be issued an unrestricted certificate to practice as a nurse aide in the Commonwealth.

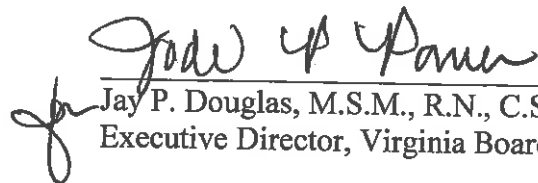
2. Ms. Branch shall maintain a course of conduct in her capacity as a nurse aide commensurate with the requirements of § 54.1-3000 *et seq.* of the Code and the Board of Nursing Regulations.

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. Branch may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on **January 25, 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: December 22, 2015

This Order shall become final on **January 25, 2016**, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

Certified True Copy

By 

Virginia Board of Nursing