



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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Director

Department of Health Professions

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Virginia Board of Nursing
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AMENDED NOTICE OF INFORMAL CONFERENCE BEFORE AN AGENCY SUBORDINATE

September 21, 2015

Amber N. McSpadden, R.N.
7516 Ox Road
Fairfax Station, VA 22039

CERTIFIED MAIL
9414 7266 9904 2028 4914 90

4230 Seminary Road
Alexandria, VA 22304

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9414 7266 9904 2028 4915 06

RE: VA License No.: 0001-239586
Expiration Date: November 30, 2015

Dear Ms. McSpadden:

This letter is official notification that an informal conference of the Virginia Board of Nursing (“Board”) will be held on **October 7, 2015, at 1:00 p.m.**, at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 201, Henrico, Virginia. In accordance with §§ 2.2-4019, 2.2-4021, and 54.1-2400(10) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended (“Code”), this informal conference will be held before an agency subordinate of the Board of Nursing. This informal conference will be convened as a public meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3700 *et seq.* of the Code. The agency subordinate will inquire into allegations that you may have violated certain laws and regulations governing professional nursing practice in Virginia.

Specifically:

1. You may have violated § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code in that you may be unsafe to practice professional nursing due to substance abuse, as evidenced by the following:
 - a. On or about February 7, 2015, you were hospitalized at the Holy Cross Hospital, Silver Spring, Maryland, for a heroin overdose. As a result of the incident, you were charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and delivery or sale of drug paraphernalia to a minor.

b. On or about January 13, 2015, you were convicted of misdemeanor DWI in the District Court for Montgomery County, Maryland.

c. From on or about June 5, 2015 through June 16, 2015, you were a resident of the Detox facility for the Falls Church, Virginia, Community Services Board. The Falls Church CSB recommended additional substance abuse treatment at the inpatient program at A New Beginning, Fairfax, Virginia.

2. You may have violated § 54.1-3007(5) and (6) of the Code in that during the course of your employment with Inova Loudoun Hospital, Leesburg, Virginia, on or about February 11, 2015, you tested positive for cocaine, opiates, codeine, hydromorphone, and hydrocodone in a for-cause urine drug screen.

3. You may have violated § 54.1-3007(2), (5), (6), and (8) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(c) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing in that during the course of your employment with Inova Loudoun Hospital, you diverted lorazepam (C-IV) and diazepam (C-IV), as evidenced by the following:

a. On or about January 4, 2015, you withdrew a total of 4mg lorazepam (C-IV) for Patient A, who had been prescribed three doses of 1mg. You documented administration of 3mg, but you failed to document the administration or waste of the remaining 1mg.

b. On or about January 5, 2015, you withdrew 2mg lorazepam for Patient B, who had been prescribed one dose of 0.5mg. You documented administration of 0.5mg, but you failed to document the administration or waste of the remaining 1.5mg.

c. On or about January 8, 2015, you withdrew 2mg lorazepam for Patient C, who had been prescribed one dose of 0.5mg. You documented the administration of 0.5mg, but you failed to document the administration or waste of the remaining 1.5mg.

d. On or about January 9, 2015, you withdrew 2mg of lorazepam for Patient D, who had been prescribed one dose of 1mg. You documented administration of 1mg, but you failed to document the administration or waste of the remaining 1mg.

e. On or about January 27, 2015, you withdrew 2mg lorazepam for Patient E, who had been prescribed one dose of 1mg. You documented administration of 1mg, but you failed to document the administration or waste of the remaining 1mg.

f. On or about January 15, 2015, you withdrew 10mg diazepam (C-IV) for Patient F, who had been prescribed a dose of 5mg. You documented administration of 5mg, but you failed to document the administration or waste of the remaining 5mg.

Please see Attachment I for the name of the patients referenced above.

In its deliberations, the agency subordinate may use the Sanction Reference Points System, as contained in the Sanction Reference Manual. The manual, which is a guidance document of the Board,

may be accessed at <http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/nursing>. Please click on *Guidance Documents*, then select #90-7. You may also request a paper copy from the Board office by calling (804) 367-4515.

After consideration of all information, the agency subordinate may:

- If the agency subordinate finds that there is insufficient evidence to warrant further action or that the charges are without foundation, notify you by mail that your record has been cleared of any charge which might affect your right to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth; or
- Recommend findings of fact, conclusions of law and a sanction, to include a reprimand, placing you on probation with terms, suspension or revocation of your license, or imposing a monetary penalty pursuant to § 54.1-2401 of the Code.

Further, the agency subordinate may refer this matter for a formal administrative proceeding pursuant to § 2.2-4020 of the Code.

Since the allegations listed above involve impairment, please be advised that you may make application to the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP"), which is available to all health care practitioners licensed in Virginia. Information about the HPMP is enclosed. Should you enter into a written agreement with the HPMP prior to your informal conference, the agency subordinate will take that into consideration when making a recommendation in your case.

Board's Review of Agency Subordinate's Recommended Decision

If you **appear in person or by counsel at the informal conference**, the recommendation of the agency subordinate will be presented to a quorum of the Board. The Board may accept or modify the recommendation, or reject the recommendation and move the case to formal hearing. If you do not agree with the decision of the Board, you have the right to a formal administrative hearing before the Board.

If you **fail to appear in person or by counsel at the informal conference**, the recommendation of the agency subordinate will be presented to a quorum of the Board. The Board may accept or modify the recommendation, or reject the recommendation. The Board's decision regarding the agency subordinate's recommendation is a final order that can only be appealed to circuit court as provided by Rule 2A:2 of the Supreme Court of Virginia.

You have the right to information that will be relied upon by the agency subordinate in making a decision. Therefore, I enclose a copy of the documents that will be distributed to the agency subordinate, and will be considered when discussing the allegations with you and when deliberating upon your case. **These documents are enclosed only with the original notice sent by certified mail, which you may be required to claim at the post office. Please bring these documents with you to the informal conference.**

To facilitate this proceeding, you should submit five copies of any documents you wish the agency subordinate to consider to the Board of Nursing, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Richmond, VA 23233, by October 2, 2015. Your documents may not be submitted by facsimile or email.

You may be represented by an attorney at the informal conference. If you obtain counsel, you should do so as soon as possible, because absent good cause to support a request for a continuance, the informal conference will be held on October 7, 2015. A request to continue this proceeding must state **in detail** the reason for the request and must establish good cause. Such request must be made, in writing, to me at the address listed on this letter and must be received by 12 noon on October 2, 2015. Only one such motion will be considered. Absent critical circumstances, such as personal or family illness, a request for a continuance after October 2, 2015 will not be considered.

Relevant sections of the Administrative Process Act, which govern proceedings of this nature, as well as laws relating to the practice of nursing and other healing arts in Virginia cited in this notice can be found on the Internet at <http://leg1.state.va.us>. To access this information, please click on the *Code of Virginia* for statutes and *Virginia Administrative Code* for regulations.

Please advise the Board, in writing, of your intention to be present. If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact our office, at (804) 367-4502.

Sincerely,



Gloria D. Mitchell-Lively, R.N., M.S.N., M.B.A.
Deputy Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Anne G. Joseph, Deputy Director, Administrative Proceedings Division
Amy E. Weiss, Adjudication Specialist
Agency Subordinate
Gwyn Hoerauf, Esquire