



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

David E. Brown, D.C.
Director

Department of Health Professions

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Virginia Board of Nursing
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Executive Director

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AMENDED NOTICE OF INFORMAL CONFERENCE BEFORE AN AGENCY SUBORDINATE

September 21, 2015

Darlene M. Mellen, R.N.
321 Persimmon Drive
Yorktown, VA 23693

CERTIFIED MAIL
9414 7266 9904 2028 4914 83

RE: VA License No.: 0001-247137
Expiration Date: October 31, 2015

Dear Ms. Mellen:

This letter is official notification that an informal conference of the Virginia Board of Nursing (“Board”) will be held on **October 7, 2015, at 9:00 a.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, you may have violated § 54.1-3007(2), (5), (6), and (8) of the Code and 18VAC90-20-300(A)(2)(c), (e), and (k) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing in that during the course of your employment with Envoy of Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Virginia, on or about December 19, 2014:

1. You diverted two tablets of hydromorphone HCL 4mg (C-II) and one tablet of morphine sulfate 60mg (C-II) from the supply of Patient A, who was prescribed one tablet of hydromorphone every six hours as needed for pain and one tablet of morphine sulfate every eight hours. You accomplished this by withdrawing the tablets, and then switching them with ibuprofen you had taken from the facility’s supply. Further, you documented administration of both medications in the patient’s Medication Administration Record (“MAR”).

2. You diverted one tablet of oxycodone/acetaminophen 5mg/ 325mg (C-II) from the supply of Patient B, who was prescribed one tablet every four hours as needed for pain. You accomplished this by documenting administration of one tablet at 12:00 a.m. and one tablet at 6:00 a.m. in Patient B's MAR, when in fact, you administered only one tablet between approximately 3:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m.

Please see Attachment I for the name of the patient 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
Lisa Thomas, Senior Investigator (Case no. 161038)
Agency Subordinate