

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: **SHELIA BALL MATHENA JOYCE, R.N.**
License Number: **0001-177409**
Expiration Date: **August 31, 2018**
Case Number: **176204**

**NOTICE OF INFORMAL CONFERENCE BEFORE AN AGENCY SUBORDINATE
AND STATEMENT OF ALLEGATIONS**

You are hereby notified that an informal conference has been scheduled before an Agency Subordinate of the Board of Nursing (“Board”) regarding your license to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

TYPE OF PROCEEDING:	This is an informal conference before an Agency Subordinate of the Board.
DATE AND TIME:	March 7, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.
PLACE:	Virginia Department of Health Professions Perimeter Center - 9960 Mayland Drive 2 nd Floor - Virginia Conference Center Henrico, Virginia 23233

LEGAL AUTHORITY AND JURISDICTION:

1. This informal conference is being held pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4019 and 54.1-2400(10). This proceeding will be convened as a public meeting pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3700.

2. After consideration of all information, the Agency Subordinate is authorized to take any of the following actions:

- 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;

- 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 Virginia Code § 2.2-4020.

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 refer the case to a 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 and refer the case to a formal hearing. 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.

ABSENCE OF RESPONDENT AND RESPONDENT'S COUNSEL:

If you fail to appear at the informal conference, the Agency Subordinate may proceed to hear this matter in your absence and may take any of the actions outlined above.

RESPONDENT'S LEGAL RIGHTS:

You have the right to the information on which the Agency Subordinate will rely in making a decision, to be represented by counsel at this proceeding, to subpoena witnesses and/or documents, and to present relevant evidence on your behalf.

INFORMAL CONFERENCE MATERIALS:

Enclosed is a copy of the documents that will be considered by the Agency Subordinate when discussing any allegations with you and when deliberating on your case. **These documents are enclosed only with the 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.**

FILING DEADLINES:

1. Deadline for filing materials: March 1, 2017. Submit 5 copies of all documents you want the Board to consider to Sylvia Tamayo-Suijk, Board of Nursing, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233. Exhibits may not be sent by facsimile or e-mail.

2. Deadline for filing motions, including requests for continuance or objections to materials, in writing, to Sylvia Tamayo-Suijk at the above address: March 1, 2017. NOTE: the failure to object to materials does not deprive you of the right to contest their contents at the proceeding.

REQUEST FOR A CONTINUANCE

Absent exigent circumstances, such as personal or family illness, a request for a continuance after **March 1, 2017**, will not be considered. If you obtain counsel, you should do so as soon as possible, as

a motion for a continuance due to the unavailability of counsel will not be considered unless received by **March 1, 2017**.

STATEMENT OF ALLEGATIONS

The Board alleges that:


1. At all times relevant hereto, Shelia Ball Mathena Joyce, R.N., was licensed to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
2. Ms. Joyce violated Term No. 1 of the Order of the Board entered December 10, 2015, which required her to enter into and comply with the terms of the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP"), and Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(6) in that on or about September 16, 2016 Ms. Joyce was dismissed from the HPMP due to her continued use of alcohol and cocaine, failure to comply with the toxicology screening program, and failure to enter and complete treatment as recommended.
3. Ms. Joyce violated Virginia Code § 54.1-3007(6) in that she is unable to safely practice professional nursing due to mental illness, substance abuse, and/or chemical dependency, as evidenced by the following:
 - a. On or about April 13, 2016, Ms. Joyce submitted a urine specimen that was positive for alcohol, which she later admitted to ingesting.
 - b. On or about August 8, 2016, Ms. Joyce submitted a urine drug screen that was positive for cocaine metabolites, which she later admitted to ingesting.
 - c. Between July and September 2016, Ms. Joyce received treatment at Chessen Behavioral Health, Newport News, Virginia, for diagnoses including bipolar II disorder and ADHD, by history.
 - d. On or about November 16, 2016, Ms. Joyce's counselor from Chessen Behavioral Health told the investigator for the Department of Health Professions ("DHP") that she did

not think that Ms. Joyce was stable enough to care for patients and that Ms. Joyce would not be safe to practice nursing.

e. On or about December 13, 2016, Ms. Joyce's physician from Chessen Behavioral Health told the DHP investigator that she would not be comfortable with Ms. Joyce practicing as a nurse.

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400.2(K), the Board considered whether to disclose or not disclose Ms. Joyce's health records or health services.



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Gloria Mitchell-Lively, R.N., M.S.N., M.B.A.
Deputy Executive Director
Virginia Board of Nursing

February 8, 2017
Date