

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

**IN RE: SARAH D. WHEELER, R.N.
License No.: 0001-216969**

ORDER

In accordance with §§ 2.2-4019, 2.2-4021 and 54.1-2400(10) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code"), an informal conference was conducted on behalf of the Board of Nursing ("Board") on July 21, 2015 in Henrico County, Virginia. Sarah D. Wheeler, R.N., did not appear in person at this proceeding but did appear by counsel, Margaret Hardy, Esquire. Allison Gregory, M.S., R.N., F.N.P.-B.C., serving as Agency Subordinate for the Board, submitted a Recommended Decision for consideration.

On September 16, 2015, a quorum of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. Ms. Wheeler was not present nor was she represented by legal counsel.

Based upon its review of the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate, the Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and issues the following Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Sarah D. Wheeler, R.N. was issued License No. 0001-216969 to practice professional nursing in Virginia on January 29, 2009. The license is scheduled to expire on October 31, 2016. She also holds an expired license to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas. Her primary state of residence is Virginia.

2. By letter dated June 19, 2015, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Wheeler notifying her that an informal conference would be held on July 21, 2015. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 2000 Riverside Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23225, the

address of record on file with the Board of Nursing. The Notice was also sent to 445 Westover Hills Blvd., Apt. 205, Richmond, Virginia 23225, a secondary address.

3. On June 17, 2014, after she had accepted an offer of employment with Golden Living Center – Elizabeth Adam Crump Manor, Ms. Wheeler submitted to a post-offer, pre-employment drug screen which was positive for marijuana, codeine, and morphine, for which she did not have current prescriptions. The offer of employment was rescinded.

4. In a letter to an investigator for the Department of Health Professions (“DHP”), Ms. Wheeler stated that she did not willingly take any illegal drugs. She stated that she had been abducted on June 14, 2014, and had been held against her will in a home for over 24 hours. She was offered drugs but refused them, but then consumed some cookies wrapped in tin foil, which must have contained the drugs. She was able to escape the home and appear for the job interview.

5. Ms. Wheeler told her psychiatric nurse practitioner on July 10, 2014 that on June 10, 2014, she woke up at a house where she did not know the people and was concerned that she may have been drugged or assaulted. On July 17, 2014 she told the nurse practitioner that she had experienced a grand mal seizure while she was out walking and woke up in a strange home. She reported that she remembered flashes of being assaulted. She was taken with unknown people to a gas station, where she grabbed her purse and ran off. She did not file a police report regarding the alleged abduction and assault.

6. Ms. Wheeler has been diagnosed with bipolar disorder and seizure disorder. She received medication and counseling with New Direction Psychiatric Services, Powhatan, Virginia, and RVA Psychiatry and Wellness, Richmond, Virginia. She received treatment for seizure disorder from Central Virginia Neurology. As of the date of the informal conference, the current status of her treatment was unknown.

7. On the application for employment with Golden Living Center – Elizabeth Adam Crump Manor, dated June 3, 2014, Ms. Wheeler failed to reveal her prior employment with Parham Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center and VCU Health System.

8. Ms. Wheeler was employed with Parham Healthcare from March 10 to March 18, 2014, when she resigned due to personal reasons after being “no call/no show” for one day. She was employed with VCU Health System from April 13 to May 24, 2014. Her employment with VCU was “voluntarily terminated” because she was dissatisfied with the position; she is not eligible for rehire.

9. Ms. Wheeler told her psychiatric nurse practitioner on August 27, 2014 that she was working three days a week at an “elderly rehabilitation center.” As of the date of the informal conference, her employment status was unknown.

10. In an email message to the DHP investigator on July 20, 2015, Ms. Wheeler indicated that she wished to surrender her nursing license.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Finding of Fact No. 3 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007 (6) of the Code.
2. Finding of Fact No. 6 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code.
3. Finding of Fact No. 7 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(2) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(e) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing.

ORDER

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. License No. 0001-216969 of Sarah D. Wheeler, R.N. is INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED.
2. The license will be recorded as suspended and no longer current.
3. At such time as Ms. Wheeler shall petition the Board for reinstatement of her license, an

administrative proceeding will be convened to determine whether she is capable of resuming the safe and competent practice of professional nursing. Ms. Wheeler shall be responsible for any fees that may be required for the reinstatement and renewal of the license prior to issuance of the license to resume practice.

4. This suspension applies to any multistate privilege to practice professional nursing.

Pursuant to Section 54.1-2400(10) of the Code, Ms. Wheeler may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on November 16, 2015, 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 BOARD:

for *Gloria Mitchell-Lively*
Jay P. Douglas, M.S.M., R.N., C.S.A.C., F.R.E.
Executive Director
Virginia Board of Nursing

ENTERED: *October 14th, 2015*

This Order shall become final on November 16, 2015, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

Certified True Copy

By: *[Signature]*
Virginia Board of Nursing