



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

David E. Brown, D.C.
Director

Department of Health Professions

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Henrico, Virginia 23233-1463

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Virginia Board of Nursing
Jay P. Douglas, MSM, RN, CSAC, FRE
Executive Director

Board of Nursing (804) 367-4515
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NOTICE OF INFORMAL CONFERENCE BEFORE AN AGENCY SUBORDINATE

June 3, 2015

Sheila D. Vipperman, R.N.
1539 Halifax Road
Danville, VA 24540

CERTIFIED MAIL
9414 7266 9904 2003 2034 76

315 South Main St., Apt. 109
Chatham, VA 24531

CERTIFIED MAIL
9414 7266 9904 2003 2034 90

RE: VA License No.: 0001-136663
Expiration Date: March 31, 2015

Dear Ms. Vipperman:

This letter is official notification that an informal conference of the Virginia Board of Nursing ("Board") will be held on **June 30, 2015, at 2:00 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(2) and (5) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(a) and (c) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing in that on or about August 11, 2014, during the course of your employment with Med Express, Danville, Virginia, you created and called in a fraudulent prescription for 30 tablets of Lorcet 10/650 (hydrocodone/APAP, Schedule II) for your personal and unauthorized use.

2. You may have violated § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code in that:

a. You admitted to the Department of Health Professions Investigator that you are addicted to narcotics.

b. On or about August 25, 2014, you entered into a Participation Contract with the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program. You were diagnosed with opioid dependence with psychological dependence. You were discharged from the program on or about January 26, 2015, for non-compliance after you failed to enter a substance abuse treatment program.

The Board hereby re-offers to enter into the enclosed Consent Order with you in lieu of an informal conference in this matter. Please review this document, and should you consent to its terms, sign it in the presence of a notary public. In order for this Consent Order to become effective, you must return the entire document bearing your witnessed signature to the Board office on or before June 17, 2015. Upon its receipt in the Board office, the Consent Order will be entered and the informal conference will be cancelled. You will receive a certified copy of the Consent Order, bearing the date of entry, shortly thereafter. Should the Board not receive this signed Consent Order from you by 5:00 p.m. on June 17, 2015, the Board will proceed with the informal conference as scheduled.

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 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 § 2.2-4020 of the Code.

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.**

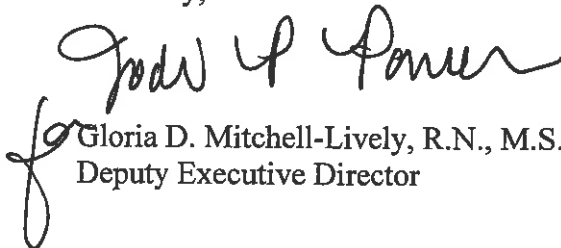
To facilitate this proceeding, you should submit five copies of any documents you wish the agency subordinate to consider to the Board of Nursing, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Richmond, VA 23233, by June 23, 2015. Your documents may not be submitted by facsimile or email.

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 June 30, 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 June 23, 2015. Only one such motion will be considered. Absent critical circumstances, such as personal or family illness, a request for a continuance after June 23, 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 this office at (804) 367-4502.

Sincerely,



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

Enclosures

cc: Anne Joseph, Deputy Director, Administrative Proceedings Division
Tammie D. Jones, Adjudication Specialist
Lisa Elgin, R.N., Senior Investigator (Case no. 158575)
Agency Subordinate
Peggy Wood, Monitoring Program Manager