

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: SHERYL MASON, L.P.N. REINSTATEMENT APPLICANT

ORDER

Pursuant to §§ 2.2-4019, 2.2-4021, and 54.1-2400(10) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended (“Code”), a Special Conference Committee (“Committee”) of the Virginia Board of Nursing (“Board”) met on February 2, 2009, in Henrico County, Virginia, to receive and act upon Sheryl Mason’s application for reinstatement of her license to practice practical nursing in Virginia and to inquire into evidence that Ms. Mason may have violated certain laws and regulations governing nursing practice in Virginia. Ms. Mason was present and was not represented by legal counsel.

Upon consideration of the evidence, the Committee adopts the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Sheryl Mason was issued License No. 0002-048568 to practice practical nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia on November 29, 1993. Said license was suspended by Order of the Board entered on February 11, 1998, upon findings that Ms. Mason had engaged in sexual intercourse with an inmate during the course of her employment at Greensville Correctional Center. Ms. Mason’s license was reinstated on probation subject to certain terms and conditions by Order entered December 4, 2000. By Consent Order entered September 24, 2002, Ms. Mason surrendered her license in the face of evidence that she had failed to comply with the terms and conditions of her probation.

2. Ms. Mason submitted an application for reinstatement of her license to practice practical nursing which was received by the Board on April 18, 2008.

3. Ms. Mason is unsafe to practice practical nursing due to continued substance abuse and/or mental health problems. Ms. Mason stated that she last used alcohol in November 2008 and that she last used cocaine on March 31, 2007. She was hospitalized in April 2007 relative to the use of cocaine.

4. Leigh Kammerer, Intake Coordinator for the Virginia Health Practitioners' Intervention Program ("HPIP") appeared at the informal conference and stated that Ms. Mason had signed a participation contract with the HPIP on October 10, 2008. HPIP recommended that Ms. Mason enter a relapse prevention program, which, after several delays, Ms. Mason is scheduled to do in mid-February. Ms. Mason had not yet gone through HPIP orientation or been requested to submit to any drug testing.

5. Ms. Mason stated that she is not currently being seen by a counselor or psychiatrist.

6. Ms. Mason did not present the results of any drug screens.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Finding of Fact No. 3 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code.

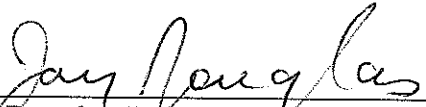
2. The Committee concludes that Sheryl Mason has not demonstrated satisfactory evidence that she is prepared to resume nursing practice in a safe and competent manner.

ORDER

On the basis of the foregoing, the Committee hereby ORDERS that the application of Sheryl Mason for reinstatement of her license to practice practical nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia is hereby DENIED.

Pursuant to §§ 2.2-4023 and 54.1-2400.2 of the Code, the signed original of this Order shall remain in the custody of the Department of Health Professions as public record and shall be made available for public inspection or copying on request.

FOR THE COMMITTEE



Jay P. Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C.
Executive Director, Virginia Board of Nursing

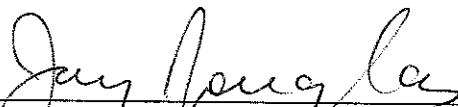
ENTERED: February 5th, 2009

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO FORMAL HEARING

If you do not consent to the Committee's decision and desire a hearing before the Board or a panel thereof, you shall notify, in writing, the Executive Director of the Board of Nursing, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Richmond, Virginia 23233, within 33 days of the date of entry of this Order. This Order shall become final upon expiration of the 33-day period unless a request for a formal hearing is received within such time. Upon receiving a timely request for a hearing, this Order shall be vacated and the Board or a panel thereof shall proceed with a hearing as provided in § 2.2-4020 *et seq.* of the Code.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing Order was mailed, by certified and regular mail, this day to Sheryl Mason at 7210 Hunt Road, Jarratt, VA 23867.



Jay P. Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C.
Executive Director, Virginia Board of Nursing

February 5th, 2009
Date