VIRGINIA:

### BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE:

# GINA SWAFFIELD, R.N.

#### **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 October 7, 2008, in Henrico County, Virginia. Ms. Swaffield was present and was not represented by legal counsel. Janet Younger, Ph.D., R.N., P.N.P., serving as Agency Subordinate for the Board, submitted a Recommended Decision for consideration.

On November 19, 2008, a quorum of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. Ms. Swaffield 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. Gina Swaffield, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-210210 to practice professional nursing in Virginia on November 9, 2007. The license is scheduled to expire on August 31, 2009.
- 2. By letter dated September 12, 2008, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Swaffield notifying her that an informal conference would be held on October 7, 2008. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 9 Main Street #1, Warrenton, Virginia 20186, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing.
- 3. During the course of her employment with the Emergency Department of Culpeper Regional Hospital, Culpeper, Virginia, on several occasions from on or about May 16, 2008 through

May 30, 2008, Ms. Swaffield made numerous errors involving the withdrawal, administration, and wastage of Dilaudid (hydromorphone hydrochloride, Schedule II), morphine (Schedule II), and Demerol (meperidine hydrochloride, Schedule II). More specifically:

- a. She withdrew Dilaudid for Patient A per a physician's order at 1:07 a.m. on May 30, 2008, but failed to record administration of Dilaudid in the patient's medical record.
- b. She withdrew Dilaudid for Patient B per a physician's order at 11:53 p.m. on May 29, 2008, but failed to record administration of Dilaudid in the patient's medical record.
- c. She withdrew Dilaudid for Patient C without a physician's order at 9:44 p.m. on May 27, 2008, following his discharge from the emergency department at 6:38 p.m., and she failed to record administration of Dilaudid in the patient's medical record.
- d. She withdrew a total of 8 mg morphine for Patient D from the Pyxis per a physician's order at 10:23 p.m. on May 16, 2008, but she recorded administration of only 4 mg morphine in the patient's medical record and failed to document wastage of the remaining 4 mg.
- e. She withdrew 100 mg Demerol for Patient E per a physician's order at 7:49 p.m. on May 19, 2008, and she recorded administration of 20 mg Demerol, but failed to waste 80 mg Demerol in the Pyxis. She documented in the medical record that the patient did not want too much pain medication until she got transferred out of the emergency department to a unit in the hospital.
- f. She withdrew a total of 6 mg Dilaudid for Patient F per a physician's order at 7:56 p.m., 9:26 p.m. and 11:05 p.m. on May 20, 2008 and 2 additional mg at 12:52 a.m. on May 21, 2008, but she recorded administration of only 2 mg Dilaudid in the patient's medical record and failed to document wastage of the remaining 6 mg.
- g. She withdrew 2 mg Dilaudid for Patient G per a physician's order at 11:31 p.m. on May 22, 2008, but failed to record administration of Dilaudid in the patient's medical record.

- h. She withdrew a total of 10 mg Dilaudid for Patient H per a physician's order at 7:15 p.m., 7:31 p.m., 8:23 p.m., 9:30 p.m. and 9:54 p.m. on May 27, 2008, but failed to record administration of 2 mg of the 10 mg Dilaudid in the patient's medical record or to document wasting it.
- 4. Ms. Swaffield's employer reported that Ms. Swaffield refused to meet her supervisor to discuss the medication discrepancies and resigned her position after refusing to submit to a drug screen.
- 5. At the informal conference, Ms. Swaffield denied diverting any medications. She attributed the discrepancies to the fast-paced nature of the emergency department. She stated that she had intended to resign her position because of family circumstances before ever being notified of any medication discrepancies. She stated that would have submitted to a drug screen if she understood how important the accusations were.

## **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The Board defers conclusions of law at this time.

## **ORDER**

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

- 1. Gina Swaffield, R.N., shall undergo six random, unannounced, observed drug screens over a period of 90 days by a Board-approved facility beginning 45 days from the entry of this Order, with screening for the following drugs: Dilaudid, Demerol, and morphine. The results of such screens shall be submitted to the Board. At the conclusion of the 90-day period, the Board shall hold an administrative proceeding or refer the matter to the agency subordinate to review the results of the drug screens and make a final disposition of the matter.
- 2. Any violation of the terms and conditions stated in this Order shall be reason for revoking the license of Gina Swaffield, and an administrative proceeding shall be held to decide whether her license should be revoked.

This Order is subject to appeal to the Board. If Ms. Swaffield desires a formal administrative hearing before the Board pursuant to §§ 2.2-4020 and 2.2-4021 of the Code, she must notify Jay P. Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C., Executive Director, Board of Nursing, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Richmond, Virginia 23233, in writing, within thirty-three (33) days from the date of service of this Order. Upon the filing of a request for the hearing with the Executive Director, this Order shall be vacated.

Pursuant to § 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 a public record, and shall be made available for public inspection and copying upon request.

FOR THE BOARD

Jay P. Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C.

Executive Director

Virginia Board of Nursing

Entered:

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing Order was mailed this day to Gina Swaffield at 9 Main Street, #1, Warrenton, VA 20186.

Jay P. Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C.

Executive Director Board of Nursing

Jecember 5,2008