

**VIRGINIA:**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE: SARAH ACHEAMPONG, L.P.N.  
License No.: 0002-072021**

**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 April 21, 2015 in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Sarah Acheampong, L.P.N., may have violated certain laws and regulations governing practical nursing practice in Virginia. Ms. Acheampong was present and was represented by John Drury, Esquire.

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

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Sarah Acheampong, L.P.N., was issued License No. 0002-072021 to practice practical nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia on August 29, 2005. Said license is set to expire on June 30, 2016. Ms. Acheampong’s primary state of residence is Virginia.
2. By letter dated December 23, 2014, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference (“Notice”) to Ms. Acheampong notifying her that an informal conference would be held on February 4, 2015. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 16455 Kenneweg Court, Woodbridge, Virginia, 22191, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing. The informal conference was continued at the request of Ms. Acheampong. On March 3, 2015, a letter stating that the informal conference was rescheduled for April 21, 2015, was mailed to Ms. Acheampong, at the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing.

3. On May 3, 2014, during the course of her employment with Scarlet Haven Nursing Care, Woodbridge, Virginia, while providing care to a two-year-old client with severe developmental delay, cerebral palsy, a ventriculoperitoneal (VP) shunt for hydrocephalus and a g-tube dependency:

a. Ms. Acheampong took the client from her residence to an outside event where Ms. Acheampong dropped the client and failed to immediately call 911 and contact emergency services. At the informal conference, Ms. Acheampong stated that she did not call 911 until she was near the client's home. Ms. Acheampong stated that she felt she needed to go to the client's home prior to going to the emergency room to get the client's medical documents regarding her condition.

b. Ms. Acheampong falsified patient records concerning the events of May 3, 2014, by inaccurately detailing the timeline of events and client involvement as well as communications with her employer after Ms. Acheampong dropped the client. At the informal conference, Ms. Acheampong stated that the nurse's notes are signed and dated May 3, 2014, but she did not write the notes on that date; she stated she wrote the notes on May 5, 2014.

4. As a result of the fall, the client suffered a small left frontal extra-axial hematoma.

5. Ms. Acheampong is currently employed with Care Partners where she provides care to children with disabilities.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Finding of Fact No. 3(a) constitutes a violation of §54.1-3007(2), (5) and (8) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(f) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing ("Regulations").

2. Finding of Fact No. 3(b) constitutes a violation of §54.1-3007(2) and (5) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(e) of the Regulations.

#### ORDER

On the basis of the foregoing, the Committee hereby ORDERS as following:

1. Sarah Acheampong, L.P.N., is hereby REPRIMANDED.
2. Ms. Acheampong shall be placed on PROBATION for a period of not less than two years of actual nursing practice subject to the following terms and conditions:
  - a. The period of probation shall begin on the date that this Order is entered and shall end at such time as Ms. Acheampong has completed two years of actual nursing practice in employment as a licensed practical nurse (“practice employment”). The license of Ms. Acheampong shall be reinstated without restriction at the completion of the probationary period without an administrative hearing unless there is a pending investigation or unresolved allegation involving a violation of law, regulation or any term or condition of probation. In that event, the period of probation shall be continued indefinitely or until such time as the Board makes a case decision with the Administrative Process Act, §2.2-4000 et seq. and §54.1-2400(9) et. seq. of the Code.
  - b. Ms. Acheampong shall cause performance evaluations to be provided to the Board, at the direction of Ms. Acheampong, by all practice employer(s), using the forms provided by Compliance and available on the Board’s website.
  - c. Ms. Acheampong shall submit “Self-Reports” which include a current address, telephone number and verification of any and all current practice employment. These reports shall also include any changes in practice employment status. Self-Reports must be submitted whether Ms. Acheampong has current practice employment or not.
  - d. Written reports are required by this Order and, unless otherwise specified, shall be sent to Compliance at the Board offices with the first report(s) received in the Board office no later than 60 days from the date this Order is entered. Subsequent reports must be received quarterly by the last day of the months of March, June, September and December until the period of probation ends. Many of the required report forms are available on the Board’s website for your convenience.

e. Ms. Acheampong shall practice only in a structured and supervised practice employment setting satisfactory to the Board for the first two years of probation. This employment setting shall provide on-site supervision by a licensed nurse practitioner, who works the same shift and works on the same level of the building, and holds an unrestricted license. For all current practice employment, and before beginning or changing practice employment during this period, Ms. Acheampong shall have current and prospective practice employers provide a written description of the employment setting to the Board office for approval.

f. Ms. Acheampong shall inform the Board in writing within ten days of the date any practice employment begins, changes, is interrupted, or ends. Additionally, Ms. Acheampong shall provide a contact name, address and phone number for each practice employer to the Board.

g. Ms. Acheampong shall inform all current and future practice employers that the Board has placed her on probation and shall provide each practice employer with a complete copy of this Order. If Ms. Acheampong is employed through a staffing agency, she shall inform her supervisor at each facility where assigned that she is on probation.

h. Ms. Acheampong shall return all copies of her license to practice as a licensed practical nurse to the Board office within ten days of the date of entry of this Order, along with payment of a duplicate license fee as specified in the regulations governing nursing. Upon receipt, the Board shall issue a replacement licensed practical nurse license marked “Valid in Virginia Only; Probation with Terms.”

i. Ms. Acheampong shall provide the Board with verification that she has completed the following NCSBN online continuing education courses within 60 days of the date this Order is entered:  
*Documentation: A Critical Aspect of Client Care and Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills.*

j. This order shall be applicable to Ms. Acheampong’s multistate licensure privilege, if any, to practice practical nursing. For the duration of this Order, Ms. Acheampong shall not work outside the Commonwealth of Virginia pursuant to a multistate licensure privilege without the written permission of

the Virginia Board of Nursing and the Board of Nursing in the party state where she wishes to work. Any request for out of state employment shall be directed, in writing, to the Executive Director of the Board.

3. Ms. Acheampong shall maintain a course of conduct in her capacity as a licensed practical nurse commensurate with the requirements of § 54.1-3000 *et seq.* of the Code and the Board of Nursing Regulations.

4. Any violation of the stated terms and conditions contained in this Order or failure to comply with all terms of this Order within five years of the date of entry of the Order, shall be reason for suspending or revoking the license of Ms. Acheampong, and an administrative hearing may be held to determine whether her license shall be suspended or revoked.

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.

Pursuant to Section 54.1-2400(10) of the Code, Ms. Acheampong may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on July 13, 2015, notify Jay P. Douglas, MSM, RN, CSAC, FRE, 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 COMMITTEE:

*per Gloria Mitchell-Lively*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jay P. Douglas, MSM, RN, CSAC, FRE  
Executive Director, Virginia Board of Nursing

ENTERED: *June 9, 2015*  
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Certified True Copy  
By *draham*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Virginia Board Of Nursing

This Order shall become final on July 13, 2015 unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.