

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: SARAH ALICE ACHEAMPONG, L.P.N.
License Number: 0002-072021
Case Number: 170368

RATIFICATION AND ORDER

On July 20, 2016, a panel of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. SARAH ALICE ACHEAMPONG, L.P.N. was not present nor was she represented by legal counsel.

In consideration whereof, the Board of Nursing ACCEPTS the attached Recommended Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law of the Agency Subordinate and ADOPTS the Recommended Order in its entirety.

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400.2, 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.

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400(10), Ms. Acheampong may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on August 30, 2016, notify Jay 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

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

ENTERED AND MAILED ON:

July 28th, 2016

This Order shall become final on August 30, 2016, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

Certified True Copy

By *Stacy*
Virginia Board of Nursing

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REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF AGENCY SUBORDINATE

Jurisdiction and Procedural History

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4019 and 54.1-2400(10), Jodi P. Power, R.N., J.D., serving as Agency Subordinate of the Virginia Board of Nursing (“Board”), held an informal conference on April 26, 2016 in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that SARAH ALICE ACHEAMPONG, L.P.N. may have violated certain terms and conditions of an Order of the Board entered June 9, 2015.

Ms. Acheampong appeared at this proceeding and was not represented by legal counsel.

Upon consideration of the evidence, the Agency Subordinate makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and recommends that the Board adopt the following Order.

Notice

By letter dated March 25, 2016, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference (“Notice”) to Ms. Acheampong notifying her that an informal conference would be held on April 26, 2016. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to the legal address of record on file with the Board of Nursing.

Recommended Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

1. SARAH ALICE ACHEAMPONG, L.P.N. was issued License Number 0002-072021 to practice practical nursing on August 29, 2005, which is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2016. At all times relevant to the allegations herein, said license was in full force and effect. Her primary state of residence is Virginia.

2. By Order of the Board entered on June 9, 2015 (“Board’s Order”), Ms. Acheampong was reprimanded and placed on probation for two years of actual nursing employment with terms and conditions, due to findings that she dropped a two-year-old client, failed to immediately call 911 and falsified patient records concerning the event.

3. SARAH ALICE ACHEAMPONG, L.P.N. violated Term Numbers 2(c) and (d) of the Board’s Order, which required her to submit quarterly self-reports whether she was employed or not, in that by her own admission, she failed to submit any self-reports.

4. Ms. Acheampong violated Term Number 2(h) of the Board’s Order which required her to return all copies of her license along with payment of a duplicate license fee within ten days of the entry of the Order, in that by her own admission, she failed to return all copies of her license to the Board office along with payment of a duplicate license fee.

5. Ms. Acheampong violated Term Number 2(i) of the Board’s Order which required her to provide the Board with evidence of completion of two NCSBN online courses within 60 days of the entry of the Order, in that by her own admission, she failed to provide the Board with evidence that she completed the two NCSBN online courses.

6. At the informal conference, Ms. Acheampong took no responsibility for her lack of action regarding the probation requirements in the Board Order. Ms. Acheampong stated that she relied on her attorney who represented her in 2015 for understanding the Board Order and claimed that no one would help her. She repeatedly stated that no one would help her, although she acknowledged receiving three letters from the Board of Nursing Compliance Case Manager with instructions regarding the online courses, self-reports and a phone number to call with any questions. Ms. Acheampong acknowledged that she never attempted to contact the Compliance Case Manager.

7. Further, Ms. Acheampong stated that it was too hard emotionally and that the Order was too hard to read, process and comprehend. She repeatedly attempted to tie her lack of action and compliance with the Board Order to her family's lack of support.

8. Ms. Acheampong reported that she was not practicing nursing; however, she provided a letter from Old Bridge Medical Center, Woodbridge, Virginia, dated December 17, 2015, which stated that she would be working as a triage nurse.

Recommended Order

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Agency Subordinate recommends that the Board issue an Order as follows:

1. SARAH ALICE ACHEAMPONG is REPRIMANDED.
2. The license issued to SARAH ALICE ACHEAMPONG to practice practical nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia is INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED.
3. The license of SARAH ALICE ACHEAMPONG will be recorded as SUSPENDED.
4. This suspension applies to any multistate privilege to practice practical nursing.
5. Should SARAH ALICE ACHEAMPONG seek reinstatement of her license, an administrative proceeding shall be convened to consider such application. At such time, the burden shall be on SARAH ALICE ACHEAMPONG to demonstrate that she is safe and competent to return to the practice of practical nursing. Ms. Acheampong 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.

Reviewed and approved on May 18, 2016
By Jodi P. Power, R.N., J.D.
Agency Subordinate

Certified True Copy

By 
Virginia Board of Nursing