

**VIRGINIA:**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE:        BETTY L. LAWSON, C.N.A.**  
**Certificate No.: 1401-104182**

**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 January 13, 2015, in Henrico County, Virginia. Betty L. Lawson, C.N.A., was not present nor was she represented by legal counsel. Jane Elliott, R.N., Ph.D., serving as Agency Subordinate for the Board, submitted a Recommended Decision for consideration.

On March 25, 2015, a quorum of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. Ms. Lawson 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. Betty L. Lawson, C.N.A., was issued Certificate No. 1401-104182 to practice as a nurse aide in Virginia on June 21, 2004. The certificate expires on June 30, 2015.
2. By letter dated December 10, 2014, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Lawson notifying her that an informal conference would be held on January 13, 2015. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to P.O. Box 302, Stuart, Virginia, 24171, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing. The Notice was also sent to 115 Warren Court, Martinsville, Virginia, 24112, a secondary address. The Notices sent via certified mail and first class mail

to the address of record were returned unclaimed and undelivered, respectively, to the Board office. The Notice sent via first-class mail to the secondary address was not returned to the Board office. The Agency Subordinate concluded that adequate notice was provided to Ms. Lawson and the informal conference proceeded in her absence.

3. Ms. Lawson self-reported to the Board that on July 10, 2014, she was admitted to Centra Health Virginia Baptist Hospital, Lynchburg, Virginia, where she was diagnosed with depression, suicidal ideation, anxiety and opiate dependence. On admission, she reported abuse of opiates, benzodiazepines, stimulants and THC. She reported using “escalating amounts of opiates daily particularly over the past year.” She reported a five year history of substance abuse with no prior treatment. She was treated for depression and anxiety while hospitalized. She was discharged with recommendations to follow up with her community services board and to attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. There is no indication she followed up with CSB psychiatrist, as recommended.

4. Ms. Lawson was previously treated by a nurse practitioner for depression and for chronic back pain and myalgia, which was treated with hydrocodone/APAP (Lortab - Schedule III). She was also prescribed Tramadol (ultram – Schedule IV). A May 16, 2014, urine drug screen administered by the practice was positive for oxycodone (Schedule II) and morphine (Schedule II), and she was dismissed from the practice.

5. Ms. Lawson began seeing a new healthcare provider in July 2014 after her hospitalization, but she failed to report her substance abuse issues to this new provider.

6. Ms. Lawson was employed by a home health agency from April 2014 through June 2014 and again from July 2014 through August 2014. Prior to that, she was unemployed from 2010 thru April 2014 due to “personal matters.”

7. Except for her initial self report to the Board, Ms. Lawson was not interviewed. She did

not respond to the Department of Health Professions' investigator's multiple subsequent attempts to contact her.

8. A former roommate reported to the investigator on September 15, 2014, that Ms. Lawson had relapsed and moved back to North Carolina.

9. She reported she did not have any support systems. She had not entered Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program as of the date of the informal conference.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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

### ORDER

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

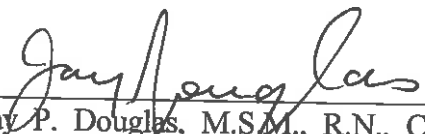
1. Certificate No. 1401-104182 of Betty L. Lawson, C.N.A., is INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED.
2. The certificate will be recorded as suspended and no longer current.
3. At such time as Ms. Lawson shall petition the Board for reinstatement of her certificate, an administrative proceeding will be convened to determine whether she is capable of resuming safe and competent nurse aide practice of a nurse aide. Ms. Lawson shall be responsible for any fees that may be required for the reinstatement and renewal of the certificate prior to issuance of the certificate to resume practice.

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.

Since Ms. Lawson failed to appear at the informal conference, this Order shall be considered final. Ms. Lawson has the right to appeal this Order directly to the appropriate Virginia circuit court. As


provided by Rule 2A:2 of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Ms. Lawson has thirty (30) days from the date of service (the date she actually received this decision or the date it was mailed to her, whichever occurred first) within which to appeal this decision by filing a Notice of Appeal with Jay P. Douglas, M.S.M., R.N., C.S.A.C., F.R.E., Executive Director, Board of Nursing, at Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Richmond, Virginia 23233. In the event that this decision is served by mail, three (3) days are added to that period.

FOR THE BOARD

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

Entered: April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Certified True Copy

By   
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Virginia Board Of Nursing