



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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Director

Department of Health Professions

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Virginia Board of Nursing
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NOTICE OF INFORMAL CONFERENCE BEFORE AN AGENCY SUBORDINATE

December 10, 2014

Christine Keaton, C.N.A.
1712 Moles Road SW
Willis, VA 24380

CERTIFIED MAIL
9414726699042003249108

RE: VA Certificate No.: 1401-135229
Expiration Date: February 28, 2015

Dear Ms. Keaton:

This letter is official notification that an informal conference of the Virginia Board of Nursing ("Board") will be held on **January 13, 2015, at 9:00 a.m.**, at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 201, Henrico, Virginia. In accordance with §§ 2.2-4019, 2.2-4021, and 54.1-2400(10) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code"), this informal conference will be held before an agency subordinate of the Board of Nursing. This informal conference will be convened as a public meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3700 *et seq.* of the Code. The agency subordinate will inquire into allegations that you may have violated certain laws and regulations governing nurse aide practice in Virginia.

Specifically:

1. You may be in violation of § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code in that you may be unable to safely practice as a nurse aide due to substance abuse and/or mental or physical illness, as evidenced by the following: your February 19, 2014, admission to the Lewis Gale Center For Behavioral Health, where you were diagnosed with major depressive disorder, recurrent, anxiolytic abuse, alcohol abuse, and anxiety disorder, and your October 8, 2014, random urine drug screen, which was positive for marijuana.
2. You may be in violation of § 54.1-3007(2) of the Code and 18 VAC 95-20-100(1)(b) of the Regulations Governing Certified Nurse Aides ("Regulations") in that on your application for certification by examination as a nurse aide, you failed to disclose your prior convictions for driving while intoxicated, assault, and public swearing/intoxication.

The Board hereby offers to enter into the enclosed Consent Order with you in lieu of an informal conference in this matter. Please review this document, and should you consent to its terms, sign it in the presence of a notary public. In order for this Consent Order to become effective, you must return the entire document bearing your witnessed signature to the Board office on or before December 29, 2014. Upon its receipt in the Board office, the Consent Order will be entered and the informal conference will be cancelled. You will receive a certified copy of the Consent Order, bearing the date of entry, shortly thereafter. Should the Board not receive this signed Consent Order from you by 5:00 p.m. on December 29, 2014, the Board will proceed with the informal conference as scheduled.

In its deliberations, the agency subordinate may use the Sanction Reference Points System, as contained in the Sanction Reference Manual. The manual, which is a guidance document of the Board, may be accessed at <http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/nursing>. Please click on *Guidance Documents*, then select #90-7. You may also request a paper copy from the Board office by calling (804) 367-4515.

After consideration of all information, the agency subordinate may:

- If the agency subordinate finds that there is insufficient evidence to warrant further action or that the charges are without foundation, notify you by mail that your record has been cleared of any charge which might affect your right to practice nursing/ as a nurse aide/ as a certified massage therapist in the Commonwealth;
- Recommend findings of fact, conclusions of law and a sanction, to include a reprimand, placing you on probation with terms, suspension or revocation of your license/certificate/registration, or imposing a monetary penalty pursuant to § 54.1-2401 of the Code.

Further, the agency subordinate may refer this matter for a formal administrative proceeding pursuant to § 2.2-4020 of the Code.

Since the allegations listed above involve impairment, please be advised that you may make application to the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP"), which is available to all health care practitioners licensed in Virginia. Information about the HPMP is enclosed. Should you enter into a written agreement with the HPMP prior to your informal conference, the agency subordinate will take that into consideration when making a recommendation in your case.

Board's Review of Agency Subordinate's Recommended Decision

If you **appear in person or by counsel at the informal conference**, the recommendation of the agency subordinate will be presented to a quorum of the Board. The Board may accept or modify the recommendation, or reject the recommendation and move the case to formal hearing. If you do not agree with the decision of the Board, you have the right to a formal administrative hearing before the Board.

If you **fail to appear in person or by counsel at the informal conference**, the recommendation of the agency subordinate will be presented to a quorum of the Board. The Board may accept or modify the recommendation, or reject the recommendation. The Board's decision regarding the agency subordinate's recommendation is a final order that can only be appealed to circuit court as provided by Rule 2A:2 of the Supreme Court of Virginia.

You have the right to information that will be relied upon by the agency subordinate in making a decision. Therefore, I enclose a copy of the documents that will be distributed to the agency subordinate, and will be considered when discussing the allegations with you and when deliberating upon your case. **These**

documents are enclosed only with the original notice sent by certified mail, which you may be required to claim at the post office. Please bring these documents with you to the informal conference.

To facilitate this proceeding, you should submit five copies of any documents you wish the agency subordinate to consider to the Board of Nursing, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Richmond, VA 23233, by January 8, 2015. Your documents may not be submitted by facsimile or email.

You may be represented by an attorney at the informal conference. If you obtain counsel, you should do so as soon as possible, because absent good cause to support a request for a continuance, the informal conference will be held on January 13, 2015. A request to continue this proceeding must state **in detail** the reason for the request and must establish good cause. Such request must be made, in writing, to me at the address listed on this letter and must be received by 12 noon on January 8, 2015. Only one such motion will be considered. Absent critical circumstances, such as personal or family illness, a request for a continuance after January 8, 2015, will not be considered.

Relevant sections of the Administrative Process Act, which govern proceedings of this nature, as well as laws relating to the practice of nursing and other healing arts in Virginia cited in this notice can be found on the Internet at <http://leg1.state.va.us>. To access this information, please click on the *Code of Virginia* for statutes and *Virginia Administrative Code* for regulations.

Please advise the Board, in writing, of your intention to be present. If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact this office, at (804) 367-4614.

In the event of inclement weather, please be advised that Board of Nursing hearings will be held unless state offices are closed. Please listen to television or radio announcements to provide information about official state closings or delays. If there is a delayed opening, hearings will begin at the time of the agency opening. A recorded announcement pertaining to closings or delays will also be available by calling the main telephone number for the Department of Health Professions at (804) 367-4400.

Sincerely,



Brenda Krohn, R.N., M.S.
Deputy Executive Director

BK/fdb
Enclosures

cc: Anne G. Joseph, Deputy Director, Administrative Proceedings Division
David W. Kazzie, Adjudication Specialist
Denise W. Sexton, Senior Investigator (Case No. 155696)
Agency Subordinate
Peggy Wood, Monitoring Program Manager