

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: RUTH FRENCH, R.N. REINSTATEMENT APPLICANT

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 December 16, 2009 in Henrico County, Virginia, to receive and act upon Ruth French’s application for reinstatement of her license to practice professional nursing in Virginia. Ms. French was present and was not represented by legal counsel.

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Ruth French was issued License No. 0001-186398 to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia on July 23, 2003. Said license was suspended for not less than two years by Order of the Board entered on May 23, 2007. This suspension was based on Ms. French’s inability to safely practice professional nursing due to mental illness.
2. Ms. French submitted an application for reinstatement of her license to practice professional nursing, which was received by the Board on July 13, 2009.
3. Ms. French is unable to safely practice nursing without monitoring, due to her diagnoses of Borderline Personality Disorder and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, which she acknowledged at the informal conference.
4. Ms. French stated at the informal conference that she sees a psychiatrist every other month for medication management and a therapist weekly. She reported that she is compliant with her medications and

that she has family support. She stated that she was willing to comply with the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP").

5. Ms. French last worked as a nurse in early 2006. She stated that she intended to return to nursing on a part-time basis, in a non-hospital setting.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Based on the above Findings of Fact, the Committee concludes that Ruth French is a candidate for the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program.

2. Ms. French otherwise meets the requirements for reinstatement of her license to practice professional nursing.

ORDER

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

1. The license of Ruth French to practice professional nursing is hereby REINSTATED, contingent upon proof of her entry into the HPMP and continued compliance with all terms and conditions of the HPMP for the period specified in by the HPMP.

2. This order shall be applicable to Ms. French's multistate licensure privilege, if any, to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia. For the duration of this Order, Ms. French 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. Any violation of the terms and conditions stated in this Order shall be reason for revoking the license of Ruth French, and an administrative proceeding shall be held to decide whether her license should be revoked. Ms. French shall be noticed to appear before the Board at such time as the Board is notified that:

a. She is not in compliance with the terms and conditions of the HPMP, or has been terminated from participation in the HPMP;

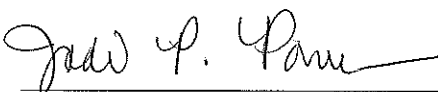
b. There is a pending investigation or unresolved allegation against her involving a violation of law or regulation or any term or condition of this Order; or

c. She has successfully completed the above-referenced period of participation in the HPMP. However, upon receipt of Ms. French's participation in and compliance with the HPMP, the Board, at its discretion, may waive Ms. French's appearance before the Board and conduct an administrative review of this matter.

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

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.

FOR THE COMMITTEE



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

ENTERED: December 23, 2009

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO FORMAL HEARING

If you do not consent to the Committee's decision and desire a hearing before the Board or a panel thereof, you shall notify, in writing, the Executive Director of the Board of Nursing, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Richmond, Virginia 23233, within 33 days of the date of entry of this Order. This Order shall become final upon expiration of the 33-day period unless a request for a formal hearing is received within such time. Upon receiving a timely request for a hearing, this Order shall be vacated and the Board or a panel thereof shall proceed with a hearing as provided in § 2.2-4020 *et seq.* of the Code.