



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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NOTICE OF INFORMAL CONFERENCE BEFORE AN AGENCY SUBORDINATE

February 1, 2007

Ruth French, R.N.
139 Shoher Lane
Monroe, Virginia 24574

CERTIFIED MAIL
71603901984942380189

Re: License No.: 0001-186398
Expiration Date: May 31, 2008

Dear Ms. French:

This letter is official notification that an informal conference of the Virginia Board of Nursing will be held on **March 6, 2007, at 2:00 p.m.**, at 6603 West Broad Street, Fifth Floor, Richmond, Virginia. In accordance with §§ 2.2-4019, 2.2-4021, and 54.1-2400(7) 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 governing the practice of professional nursing in Virginia. Specifically:

1. You may have violated § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code in that you may be unsafe to practice due to mental health diagnoses which have precipitated three recent hospitalizations, one in 2005, and two in 2006.
2. You may be in violation of § 54.1-3007(5) in that while employed at Virginia Central Training Center, Madison Heights, Virginia, you were counseled for two medication errors:
 - a. On January 31, 2005, you administered medications to the wrong patient.
 - b. On February 10, 2005, you failed to administer medications to a patient.

After consideration of all information, the agency subordinate may:

Board of Audiology & Speech - Language Pathology - Board of Counseling - Board of Dentistry - Board of Funeral Directors & Embalmers
Board of Long-Term Care Administrators - Board of Medicine - Board of Nursing - Board of Optometry - Board of Pharmacy
Board of Physical Therapy - Board of Psychology - Board of Social Work - Board of Veterinary Medicine
Board of Health Professions

1. Recommend to the Board that you be exonerated, that there be a finding of no violation, or that insufficient evidence exists to determine that a statutory/regulatory violation has occurred; or

2. 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, 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.

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) 662-9909.

Since the allegations listed above involve impairment, please be advised that you may make application to the Health Practitioners' Intervention Program ("HPIP"), which is available to all health care practitioners licensed in Virginia. A brochure about the HPIP is enclosed. Should you enter into a written agreement with the HPIP prior to your informal conference, the Committee will take that into consideration when deciding 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, and must be claimed at the post office. Further, if you retain counsel, it is your responsibility to provide the enclosed materials to your attorney.

To facilitate this proceeding, you should submit four copies of any documents you wish for the agency subordinate to consider to Gloria Mitchell, 6603 West Broad Street, 5th Floor, Richmond, Virginia 23230-1712, by **February 27, 2007**. Your documents may not be submitted by facsimile or e-mail.

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 **March 6, 2007**. 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 5:00 p.m. on **February 27, 2007**. Only one such motion will be considered. Absent critical circumstances, such as personal or family illness, a request for a continuance after **February 27, 2007**, 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 medicine 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) 662- 9950.

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) 662-9900.

Sincerely,



Gloria D. Mitchell, R.N., M.S.N., M.B.A.
Deputy Executive Director, Discipline

GDM/bl
Enclosures:

cc: Agency Subordinate
Sandra Whitley Ryals, Director, Department of Health Professions
Anne G. Joseph, Deputy Director, Administrative Proceedings Division
James Banning, Director, Administrative Proceedings Division
James A. Wall, Investigator (Case no. 104773)