

**VIRGINIA:**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE: ELENITA CARLOS, R.N.  
License No.: 0001-145031**

**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 9, 2014, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Elenita Carlos, R.N., may have violated certain laws and regulations governing professional nursing practice in Virginia. Ms. Carlos was present and was not represented by counsel.

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

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Elenita Carlos, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-145031 to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia on August 14, 1995. Said license expires on May 31, 2015. Ms. Carlos’ primary state of residence is Virginia.
2. By letter dated November 7, 2014, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference (“Notice”) to Ms. Carlos notifying her that an informal conference would be held on December 9, 2014. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 7303 Elgar Street, Springfield, Virginia, 22151, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing.
3. On February 17, 2014, during the course of her employment with INOVA Alexandria Hospital, Alexandria, Virginia, by her own admission, Ms. Carlos allowed another nurse to administer an intravenous saline lock to her without a physician’s order and without a practitioner-patient relationship.

4. Ms. Carlos had been ill and vomiting throughout her shift. She told the charge nurse that she did not feel well. While Ms. Carlos waited for her husband to pick her up to take her home, another nurse administered the IV saline lock, a procedure to which she assented.

5. Upon arriving home, Ms. Carlos discovered additional IV fluids in her bag. Although she stated at the informal conference that she did not place the fluids in her bag before leaving the hospital, she did self-administer the fluids at home.

6. Ms. Carlos' 17-year employment with INOVA Alexandria Hospital was terminated.

7. Ms. Carlos attributed her decision to allow the other nurse to insert the saline lock to her state of mind secondary to her physical illness. Only after repeated prompting from the Committee did Ms. Carlos acknowledge the severity of and assume any responsibility for her actions.

8. Ms. Carlos is currently employed with Northern Virginia Surgical Center ("NVSC"). NVSC is not aware of Ms. Carlos' termination from INOVA and is not aware of the Board's investigation of Ms. Carlos.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Finding of Fact No. 3 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(2), (5), and (8) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(c) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing.

### ORDER

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

1. Elenita Carlos, R.N., is hereby REPRIMANDED.
2. Ms. Carlos shall provide the Board with verification that she has completed the following NCSBN online courses within 60 days of the date this Order is entered: *Professional Accountability and Legal Liability for Nurses; Respecting Professional Boundaries in Nursing; Righting a Wrong: Ethics and Professionalism in Nursing; and Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills for Competent Nursing Practice.*

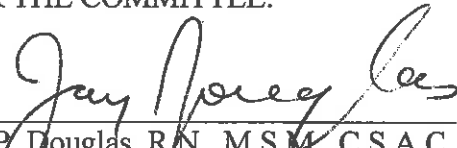
3. Ms. Carlos shall maintain a course of conduct in her capacity as a professional nurse commensurate with the requirements of § 54.1-3000 *et seq.* of the Code and the Board of Nursing Regulations.

4. Any violation of the terms and conditions of this Order or of any law or regulation affecting the practice of nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia shall constitute grounds for the suspension or revocation of the license of Ms. Carlos and an administrative proceeding shall be convened to determine whether such license shall be suspended or revoked.

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.

Pursuant to Section 54.1-2400(10) of the Code, Ms. Carlos may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on February 8, 2015, notify Jay P. Douglas, 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 COMMITTEE:

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

ENTERED: January 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2015

This Order shall become final on February 8, 2015, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

**Certified True Copy**

By   
**Virginia Board of Nursing**