

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: CHRISTA R. JOHNSON, R.N.
License No.: 0001-164349

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 November 12, 2014, in Henrico County, Virginia. Christa R. Johnson, R.N., 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 January 28, 2015, a quorum of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. Ms. Johnson 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. Christa R. Johnson, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-164349 to practice professional nursing in Virginia on July 14, 1999. The license is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2015. Ms. Johnson's primary state of residence is Virginia.
2. By letter dated October 20, 2014, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Johnson notifying her that an informal conference would be held on November 12, 2014. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 7201 Simmons Ridge Court, Manassas, Virginia 20112, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing. The Notice sent by

certified mail was accepted on October 22, 2014, by someone whose signature was illegible. As of November 12, 2014, the Notice sent by first class mail had not been returned to the Board office. The Agency Subordinate concluded that adequate notice was provided to Ms. Johnson and the informal conference proceeded in her absence.

3. Between April 26, 2014, and June 12, 2014, during the course of her employment with Vita NOVA Center for Medical Weight Loss, Manassas, Virginia, Ms. Johnson forged prescriptions for zolpidem 10 mg (Ambien, C-IV) and Vicodin (C-II) using the name of a coworker, then used the coworker's driver's license to pick up the medications for her personal and unauthorized use. Ms. Johnson resigned her position in lieu of being terminated from the facility.

4. By her own admission, Ms. Johnson has been diagnosed with postpartum depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder. Further, on June 13, 2014, she was admitted to Virginia Hospital Center, Arlington, Virginia, following a suicide attempt. Following discharge from the Virginia Hospital Center, Ms. Johnson was admitted to Father Martin's Ashley, Havre De Grace, Maryland, for substance abuse treatment. At Father Martin's Ashley, she was diagnosed with sedative, hypnotic, anxiolytic abuse, continuous, opioid dependence, continuous, and alcohol dependence, episodic.

5. During an interview with the investigator for the Department of Health Professions, Ms. Johnson did not deny that she forged the prescriptions or took her coworker's identification.

6. Ms. Johnson stated to the investigator that she has attempted suicide three times since December 2011, at which time she took 180 klonopin tablets (C-IV), and drank a bottle of wine. In July 2012, she attempted to cut her wrist. On June 13, 2014, she took 30 Ambien tablets and drank two bottles of wine while alone at home.

7. On July 25, 2014, Ms. Johnson contacted the investigator and reported that she had

contacted the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP"), and that she was scheduled to have an evaluation over the telephone on July 28, 2014. As of November 12, 2014, Ms. Johnson had not entered the HPMP.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. 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.
2. Finding of Fact No. 4 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code.

ORDER

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:


1. License No. 0001-164349 of Christa R. Johnson, R.N., to practice professional nursing is INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED for a period of not less than two years.
2. The license will be recorded as suspended and no longer current.
3. At such time as Ms. Johnson shall petition the Board for reinstatement of her license, an administrative proceeding will be convened to determine whether she is capable of resuming the safe and competent practice of professional nursing. Ms. Johnson shall be responsible for any fees that may be required for the reinstatement and renewal of the license prior to issuance of the license to resume practice.
4. This suspension applies to any multistate privilege to practice professional nursing.

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

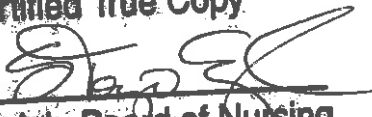
provided by Rule 2A:2 of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Ms. Johnson has 30 days from the date of service (the date she actually received this decision or the date it was mailed to her, whichever occurred first) within which to appeal this decision by filing a Notice of Appeal with Jay P. Douglas, M.S.M., 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 days are added to that period.

FOR THE BOARD


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

Entered: February 10, 2015

Certified True Copy

By 
Virginia Board of Nursing