

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: STEPHANIE PATNODE, R.M.A.
Registration No.: 0031-002928

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 September 9, 2014, in Henrico County, Virginia. Stephanie Patnode, R.M.A., was not present nor was she represented by legal counsel. Nancy Durrett, R.N., M.S., serving as Agency Subordinate for the Board, submitted a Recommended Decision for consideration.

On November 19, 2014, a quorum of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. Ms. Patnode 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. Stephanie Patnode, R.M.A., was issued Registration No. 0031-002928 to practice as a medication aide by the Virginia Board of Nursing on April 24, 2009. Said registration expired on January 31, 2014.
2. By letter dated August 4, 2014, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Patnode notifying her that an informal conference would be held on September 9, 2014. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 1801 – A Churchville Avenue, Staunton, Virginia 24401, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing. The Notice was also sent to 704 Farrier

Court, Staunton, Virginia 24401, a secondary address. According to the United States Postal Service the Notice sent by certified mail to the address of record was delivered on August 6, 2014, and the Notice sent to the secondary address was delivered on August 5, 2014. As of September 9, 2014, the Notices sent by first class mail to the address of record and the secondary address had not been returned to the Board office. The Agency Subordinate concluded that adequate notice was provided to Ms. Patnode and the informal conference proceeded in her absence.

3. On October 25, 2013, during the course of her employment with Emeritus at Staunton, Staunton, Virginia, Ms. Patnode left the facility without notifying staff, which left the facility understaffed.

4. Ms. Patnode stated to the investigator for the Department of Health Professions that she was ill and had asked the charge nurse if she could leave, but the charge nurse denied her request. Ms. Patnode stated that she told the charge nurse that she quit, although there is no evidence that she told anyone that she was leaving the facility.

5. On October 26, 2013, Ms. Patnode's employment with Emeritus of Staunton was terminated.

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 90-60-120(2)(f) of the Regulations Governing the Registration of Medication Aides.

ORDER

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

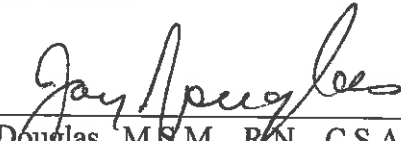
1. Stephanie Patnode, R.M.A., is hereby REPRIMANDED.
2. Ms. Patnode shall maintain a course of conduct in her capacity as a registered medication aide commensurate with the requirements of § 54.1-3000 *et seq.* of the Code and the Board

of Nursing Regulations.

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. Patnode failed to appear at the informal conference, this Order shall be considered final. Ms. Patnode 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. Patnode has thirty (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



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

Entered: November 25th, 2014

Certified True Copy

By 
Virginia Board Of Nursing