

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

**IN RE: CHRISTINA LOVERN, R.N. REINSTATEMENT APPLICANT
License No.: 0001-213964**

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 October 27, 2014 in Henrico County, Virginia, to receive and act upon Christina Lovern’s application for reinstatement of her license to practice professional nursing in Virginia and to inquire into allegations that grounds may exist to deny said application. Ms. Lovern 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. Christina Lovern, was issued License No. 0001-213964 to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia on July 11, 2008. Said license expired on August 31, 2010. Ms. Lovern’s primary state of residence is Virginia.

2. By letter dated October 1, 2014, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference (“Notice”) to Ms. Lovern notifying her that an informal conference would be held on October 27, 2014. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 1113 Franklin Road, SW, Apt. 4, Roanoke, Virginia, 24016, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing.

3. Since 2009 Ms. Lovern has received a diagnosis of major depressive disorder and opioid dependence. In addition, she has experienced extensive back problems for many years requiring opioid medication and surgery. Ms. Lovern received in-patient and out-patient substance abuse and mental health

treatment from 2009 to 2013. Ms. Lovern completed a nine-month residential program at Bethany Hall, Roanoke, Virginia, in January 2012. She completed a one-year aftercare program at Bethany Hall in April, 2013.

4. Ms. Lovern stated that her date of sobriety was March 15, 2011. She attends NA weekly, two or three times a week, she has a sponsor, and she is currently on Step 4. Ms. Lovern sees her employer, Bethany Hall, as her most supportive resource. Ms. Lovern does not currently receive any counseling.

5. On September 16, 2011, Ms. Lovern was convicted of three counts of misdemeanor obtaining prescription drugs by fraud, a crime of moral turpitude, in the City of Salem, Virginia, Circuit Court. These charges originated from morphine diversion while employed at Lewis Gale Medical Center, Salem, Virginia. She was sentenced to six months in jail on each count with six months on each count suspended for a total of 18 months incarceration with 18 months suspended.

6. Ms. Lovern is currently employed at Bethany Hall as a residential counselor and is a part time employee at a pre-school.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Finding of Fact No. 3 constitutes a violation of §54.1-3007(6) of the Code.
2. Finding of Fact No. 5 constitutes a violation of §54.1-3007(4) of the Code.
3. The Committee concludes that Christina Lovern otherwise meets the requirements of §54.1-3017 of the Code.

ORDER

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


1. The license of Christine Lovern is hereby REINSTATED, without restriction.

2. Ms. Lovern 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.

Pursuant to Section 54.1-2400(10) of the Code, Ms. Lovern may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on December 22, 2014, notify Jay P. Douglas, M.S.M., R.N., C.S.A.C., F.R.E., 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, M.S.M., R.N., C.S.A.C., F.R.E.
Executive Director, Virginia Board of Nursing

ENTERED: November 19th, 2014

This Order shall become final on December 22, 2014, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

Certified True Copy

By 

Virginia Board of Nursing