

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF THE JOINT BOARDS OF NURSING AND MEDICINE

**IN RE: ELLA D. PRINCE-HINTON, L.N.P.
 License No.: 0024-112657, 0017-001160**

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 of the Virginia Committee of the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine (“Committee of the Joint Boards”) met on October 8, 2014, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Ella D. Prince-Hinton, L.N.P., may have violated certain laws and regulations governing the practice of nurse practitioners in Virginia. Ella D. Prince-Hinton, L.N.P., was present and was not represented by legal counsel.

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Ella D. Prince-Hinton, L.N.P., was issued License No. 0001-112657 to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia on November 30, 1988. She was issued License No. 0024-112657 to practice as a nurse practitioner on November 6, 1996, and Prescriptive Authority No. 0017-001160 on April 10, 1997. Each license expires on May 31, 2016. Her primary state of residence is Virginia.
2. By letter dated March 31, 2014, the Committee of the Joint Boards sent a Notice of Informal Conference (“Notice”) to Ms. Prince-Hinton notifying her that an informal conference would be held on April 29, 2014. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 1230 Plantation Lakes Circle, Chesapeake, Virginia 23320, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing. The informal conference was continued and by letter dated September 12, 2014, the Committee of the Joint Boards sent an Amended Notice of

Informal Conference to Ms. Prince-Hinton notifying her that an informal conference would be held on October 8, 2014.

3. During the course of her employment with the Naval Medical Center - Sewells Point OB/GYN Clinic, Portsmouth, Virginia:

a. On November 8, 2011, Ms. Prince-Hinton failed to establish a plan of care for an obstetric patient who presented with the following issues: elevated body mass index (BMI), sickle cell trait, history of pulmonary embolism, light spotting, prior Cesarean delivery, and prior infant who was large for gestational age (LGA). Further, on February 3, 2012, Ms. Prince-Hinton documented the results of the patient's fetal anatomy ultrasound, which noted an echogenic focus within the left ventricle of the heart; however, there is no documentation that she discussed the finding with the patient.

b. On January 9, 2012, Ms. Prince-Hinton failed to establish a plan of care for an obstetric patient who presented with a history of pulmonary embolism and whose lab results noted that she was Varicella non-immune. Further, a plan of care was not documented on subsequent visits on February 14 and March 20, 2012.

c. On March 12 and April 16, 2012, Ms. Prince-Hinton documented that an obstetric patient had a history of delivery at 35 weeks; however, Ms. Prince-Hinton failed to elicit any other details regarding the delivery and establish a plan of care for this condition.

d. During the course of her treatment of a patient who presented for obstetric care on February 13, 2012, Ms. Prince-Hinton documented a history of pregnancy induced hypertension (PIH)/pre-eclampsia, previous c-section; however, she failed to elicit details regarding these conditions and establish a plan of care.

e. During the course of her treatment of a patient who presented for obstetric care on January 25, 2012, Ms. Prince-Hinton failed to establish a plan of care regarding the patient's hemoglobin C trait and the father of the child's sickle cell trait.

f. During the course of her treatment of a patient who presented for obstetric care on December 23, 2011, Ms. Prince-Hinton documented that the patient had bilateral choroid plexus cysts (CPC), but she failed to counsel the patient regarding this finding. Ms. Prince-Hinton also documented that the patient had a history of atrial septal defect but she failed to establish a plan of care for this condition.

4. Ms. Prince-Hinton stated that she kept complete hand-written records, but did not transfer the information to the electronic records.

5. There is no evidence of patient harm from Ms. Prince-Hinton's actions.

6. Ms. Prince-Hinton keeps current in her practice by completing continuing education units.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Findings of Fact Nos. 3(a) – 3(f) constitute a violation of § 54.1-3007(2), (5), and (8) of the Code, and 18 VAC 90-30-220(4) of the Regulations Governing the Licensure of Nurse Practitioners.

ORDER

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

1. Ella D. Prince-Hinton, L.N.P., is hereby REPRIMANDED.

2. Ms. Prince-Hinton shall provide the Committee of the Joint Boards with verification that she has completed the following NCSBN online courses within 60 days of the date this Order is entered: Documentation: A Critical Aspect of Client Care and Professional Accountability and Legal Liability for Nurses.

3. Ms. Prince-Hinton shall maintain a course of conduct in her capacity as a nurse practitioner commensurate with the requirements of § 54.1-3000 *et seq.* of the Code and the Regulations Governing the Licensure of Nurse Practitioners.

4. Any violation of the terms and conditions of this Order or of any law or regulation affecting the practice of nurse practitioners in the Commonwealth of Virginia shall constitute grounds for the suspension or revocation of the license of Ella D. Prince-Hinton, L.N.P., 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. Prince-Hinton may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on December 15, 2014, notify Jay P. Douglas, MSM, RN, CSAC, FRE, 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 OF THE JOINT BOARDS:

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

ENTERED: November 13TH, 2014

This Order shall become final on December 15, 2014, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

Certified True Copy
By *dpabem*
Virginia Board Of Nursing