



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health Professions

Board of Nursing

Nancy K. Durrett, R.N., M.S.N.
Executive Director
of the Board

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June 27, 1997

Julie A. Nowak, R.N.
221 Cary Street
Smithfield, VA 23430

CERTIFIED MAIL
Z 100 419 673

Dear Ms. Nowak:

This is official notification that an Informal Conference will be held, pursuant to § 9-6.14:11 and § 54.1-3010 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, on August 28, 1997 at 10:30 a.m., in the offices of the Department of Health Professions, 6606 West Broad Street, Southern States Building, Fourth Floor, Richmond, Virginia.

The Special Conference Committee, which is comprised of two or three members of the Virginia Board of Nursing, will inquire into allegations that you may have violated § 54.1-3007(2) and (5) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(c) and (e) of the Board of Nursing Regulations, in that:

During the course of your employment at Mary Immaculate Hospital, Newport News, Virginia, by your own admission, on divers occasions, you diverted Demerol injectables (Schedule II) for your personal and unauthorized use and self administered the injectables at home. The diversion was accomplished by signing out excess dosages from the Pyxis unit for patients who were ordered Demerol, administering the required dosage and keeping the remaining Demerol for your personal and unauthorized use. As a result, on or about November 8, 1996, you were placed on leave of absence.

You may be represented by an attorney at the Informal Conference. After the conference, the conference committee is authorized to take the following actions:

1. If the committee finds that there is insufficient evidence to warrant further action or that the charges are without foundation, the committee shall notify you by mail that your record has been cleared of any charge which might affect your right to practice nursing in the Commonwealth;
2. The committee may place your license on probation with such terms as it may deem appropriate;
3. The committee may reprimand you;

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4. The committee may impose a monetary penalty pursuant to § 54.1-2401 of the Code; or
5. The committee may refer the case to the Board of Nursing or a panel thereof for a formal hearing. If the Conference Committee is of the opinion that a suspension or revocation of your license may be justified, the committee may offer you a consent order in lieu of a formal hearing.

If you fail to appear at the informal conference, the Conference Committee will proceed to hear the case in your absence, and may take any of the actions outlined above.

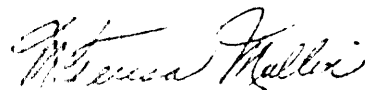
At least ten (10) days prior to the scheduled date of the conference, please inform this office of your telephone number and whether you intend to appear at the conference. This can be done by calling our offices at (804) 662-9948 or by sending us a letter at the address listed above.

If you have any additional documents to be presented to the Conference Committee, please bring five (5) copies of each document with you.

You have the right to information which will be relied upon by the Board in making a decision. Therefore, I enclosed a copy of the documents which will be distributed to the members of the Committee and will be considered by the Committee when discussing the allegations with you and when deliberating upon your case. These documents are enclosed only with the original notice sent by certified mail, and must be claimed at the post office. Please bring these documents with you.

Also, enclosed are copies of the relevant sections of the Administrative Process Act, which govern proceedings of this nature, as well as laws and regulations relating to the practice of nursing in Virginia that are cited in this notice.

Sincerely,



M. Teresa Mullin, R.N., L.P.C.
Assistant Executive Director

MTM/amf
Enclosures

cc: James Banning, Director, Administrative Proceedings Division
John W. Hasty, Director, Department of Health Professions
Tammie D. Hall, Senior Legal Assistant
Patricia A. Stigall, Senior Investigator (97-00604)
Committee Members