

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: TARA E. SCHLEINKOFER, R.N.
License No.: 0001-236366

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 August 13, 2014, in Henrico County, Virginia. Tara E. Schleinkofer, 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 September 17, 2014, a quorum of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. Ms. Schleinkofer 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. Tara E. Schleinkofer, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-236366 to practice professional nursing in Virginia on March 8, 2012. The license is scheduled to expire on January 31, 2016. Her primary state of residence is Virginia.

2. By letter dated July 17, 2014, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Schleinkofer notifying her that an informal conference would be held on August 13, 2014. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 2113 W. Main Street, Richmond, Virginia, 23220, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing. The U.S. Postal Service website indicates that a notice to pick up the certified mail was left at the residence on July 18, 2014. The Notice sent by

first class mail has not been returned to the Board office. The Agency Subordinate concluded that adequate notice was provided to Ms. Schleinkofer and the informal conference proceeded in her absence.

3. On October 7, 2013, Ms. Schleinkofer entered a Participation Contract with the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP"), wherein she acknowledged suffering from alcoholism and/or chemical dependence. On December 2, 2013, she signed a Recovery Monitoring Contract. On March 10, 2014, Ms. Schleinkofer received a stay of disciplinary action regarding the incident of drug diversion from Chippenham Hospital referenced below. On April 11, 2014, the stay was vacated and on May 16, 2014, Ms. Schleinkofer was dismissed from the HPMP for noncompliance. Specifically, she continued to use alcohol and failed to comply with the drug screening program and treatment recommendations.

4. During the course of her employment with Chippenham Hospital, Richmond, Virginia, from July 2, 2013 to August 31, 2013, Ms. Schleinkofer diverted narcotics, some of which she used for her personal and unauthorized use. On September 24, 2013, during an interview with an investigator from the Department of Health Professions, Ms. Schleinkofer admitted diverting oxycodone and hydrocodone, but not the other drugs that the hospital reported were missing.

5. Ms. Schleinkofer's employment was suspended.

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. 4 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(2), (5), and (6) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(c) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing.

ORDER

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. Tara E. Schleinkofer, R.N., is hereby REPRIMANDED.

2. License No. 0001-236366 of Tara E. Schleinkofer, R.N., is INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED for a period of not less than two years.

3. The license will be recorded as suspended and no longer current.

4. At such time as Ms. Schleinkofer 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. Schleinkofer 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.

5. 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. Schleinkofer failed to appear at the informal conference, this Order shall be considered final. Ms. Schleinkofer 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. Schleinkofer 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 (3) days are added to that period.

FOR THE BOARD

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

Entered: October 6, 2014

Certified True Copy

By *Steph*
Virginia Board of Nursing