**VIRGINIA:** 

### BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

RE:

STEPHEN W. CULLERS, R.N.

#### **ORDER**

Pursuant to § 2.2-4020, § 2.2-4021, § 54.1-110 and § 54.1-2400(11) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended (the "Code"), a formal administrative hearing was held before a panel of the Board of Nursing (the "Board") on November 19, 2003, in Henrico County, Virginia, to receive and act upon evidence that Stephen W. Cullers, R.N. may have violated certain laws and regulations governing the practice of nursing in Virginia. The case was presented by Patricia L. Larimer, Senior Adjudication Analyst, Administrative Proceedings Division. Howard M. Casway, Senior Assistant Attorney General, was present as legal counsel for the Board. Mr. Cullers was not present and was not represented by legal counsel. The proceedings were recorded by a certified court reporter.

Upon consideration of the evidence presented, the Board adopted the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

# **FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 1. Based upon the representations of Patricia L. Larimer, Senior Adjudication Analyst, and Commonwealth's Exhibit # 1, the notice of formal hearing and affidavit of mailing, the presiding officer ruled that adequate notice was provided to Stephen W. Cullers, R.N., and the hearing proceeded in the absence of Mr. Cullers.
- Stephen W. Cullers, R.N., holds License No. 0001-150134 issued by the Board to practice nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Said license is currently active and will expire on December 31, 2003, unless restricted or renewed.

- On or about May 27, 1999, and June 21, 1999, Mr. Cullers signed participation contracts, and on or about August 5, 1999, he signed a Recovery Monitoring Contract with the Health Practitioners' Intervention Program ("HPIP"), pursuant to Chapter 25.1 of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia (1950) as amended, and 18 VAC 76-10-10, et seq.. of the Regulations Governing the HPIP. On or about August 11, 2000, Mr. Cullers was dismissed from the program due to non-compliance with drug screens, self-reports and correspondence. On or about on July 12, 2002, Mr. Cullers re-entered the Health Practitioners' Intervention Program by signing a Participation Contract. However, on or about October 18, 2002, the HPIP Committee dismissed Mr. Cullers from the Health Practitioners' Intervention Program due to noncompliance with said contract. Specifically, Mr. Cullers was dismissed due to his:
  - i. Failure to enter and complete treatment as recommended;
  - ii. Failure to respond to telephone messages and to written correspondence; and
  - iii. Continued use of unauthorized drugs/alcohol.
- 4. On or about June 25, 2002, Mr. Cullers was admitted to Augusta Medical Center, Fishersville, Virginia, following a relapse with alcohol.
- 5. Mr. Cullers has a long history of substance and alcohol dependence and participated in not less than five (5) treatment programs from 1994 through 2001. In approximately August 2002, Mr. Cullers was discharged from Augusta Medical Center due to his failure to attend several treatment sessions and relapses with alcohol on two occasions while in treatment.

6. On or about August 20, 2002, when long-term residential treatment was recommended, Mr. Cullers provided multiple reasons why he did not wish to participate to include his statements that he was "too sick," and not ready to give up drinking.

## **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. Finding of Facts 3, 4 and 5 constitute a violation of § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

#### **ORDER**

WHEREFORE, the Virginia Board of Nursing, effective upon entry of this Order, hereby ORDERS that License No. 0001-150134, issued to Stephen W. Cullers, R.N., to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia, be and hereby is REVOKED.

Upon entry of this Order, the license of Stephen W. Cullers will be recorded as revoked and no longer current. Pursuant to §54.1-2408.2 and consistent with the terms of this Order, Mr. Cullers may seek reinstatement of his license after a period of three (3) years and he shall be responsible for any fees that may be required for the reinstatement and renewal of his license prior to issuance of his license to resume practice.

Pursuant to § 2.2-4023 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, 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.

As provided by Rule 2A:2 of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Mr. Cullers has thirty (30) days from the service date in which to appeal this decision by filing a Notice of Appeal with Jay P. Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C., Executive Director, Board of Nursing, 6603W. Broad Street,

Fifth Floor, Richmond, Virginia 23230-1712. The service date shall be defined as the date Mr. Cullers actually received this decision or the date it was mailed to him, whichever occurred first. In the event this decision is served upon him by mail, three (3) days are added to that period.

FOR THE BOARD

ay P. Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C

Executive Director for the

Board of Nursing

4

## Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a certified true copy of the foregoing Order was mailed on this day to Stephen W. Cullers, at P.O. Box 773, Churchville, Virginia 24421.

Jay P Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C.

Executive Director for the

Board of Nursing

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**Certified True Copy** 

Virginia Board of Nursing